

Hollywood at Home Issue 14 (of 26 April 2021)



Chairperson's letter

Welcome to our 14th Edition of Hollywood at Home. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our magazine this month; we really appreciate your input and look forward to reading it. Rosemary and Robin have done a great job collating as always.

Hollywood at Home Magazine has made an invaluable contribution to our u3a during lockdown through its interesting and varied articles.

This is my last letter, no longer in my Chair!

After two years as Chairperson I stood down at our AGM on 23 April. I have had many great experiences, made so many good friends and feel privileged to have played a small part in the life and growth of our u3a. I will continue being involved with u3a, just not quite as much!

We have all experienced a very challenging year dealing with and adapting to Covid-19. The Executive Committee embraced new technology and methods of communication to enable us to keep in touch with our members.

We all worked together as a great team. Our President, Joy Montgomery, and Valerie Cobain, Trustee for Northern Ireland, have given us valuable support. Interest Group Leaders have had to come to terms with no physical meetings and adapt to Zoom and other means of communication.

The Meeters and Greeters, Refreshment Team and the Microphone Team have had a very quiet year with no General Meetings in Queen's Hall.

I want to say '*Thank You*' to everyone who has given their time and expertise to make our u3a strong and vibrant during the past year. Also '*Thank You*' to all our Members for your continued loyalty.

U3a is '*for the members by the members*' and we all can play a part, no matter how big or small to make it even better. If you have any ideas for new groups, speakers or feel you could help in any way, do let us know.

I send my Best Wishes to our new Chairperson, Joy Montgomery and the 2021/2022 Executive Committee.

We are all slowly moving towards more relaxed and flexible times and will continue to Live, Laugh, Live together.

My Best Wishes to you all,

Liz

A Postscript by the editor

Hollywood at Home could not let the occasion pass without paying a sincere tribute to Liz who has been our superb chair for the past two, challenging, years. She has led the Hollywood u3a with flair, determination and good humour. We are in her debt.

Fortunately, Joy Montgomery is taking on the role for the time being. Her experience at our helm will be much appreciated. We also welcome the other new office-bearers and wish them well.

Redburn House and the Dunville Family Film

On behalf of Hollywood Shared Town, Robin Masefield applied for a Community Heritage grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The grant has enabled the production of a film which was edited by Conor Kelly in spring 2021, drawing on material from Colin Steele, the late Gordon Thompson, Patricia McKeaveney, Andy Moore, Sam Christie, Billy McCall, and others. It tells the story of Redburn House and the Dunville family as a film, using old film footage and recordings of descendants of former staff at Redburn, together with many photographs.

Redburn Country Park: A Community Guide



Produced on behalf of Hollywood Shared Town, Spring 2021

The film,
'Redburn House and the Dunville Family',
on YouTube, can be accessed via this QR Code



Members of our u3a played various roles in the project which was greatly appreciated.

The Heritage grant also facilitated the reprinting of a free Community Guide to Redburn Country Park, (copies of which will be in the Library) and the erection of information panels showing historic images of Redburn House and gardens (which Robin and Rosemary have created).

This is the front cover of the Guide, containing a QR code that provides direct access to the film. If you download the QR code app onto your mobile phone, it works if you just line the phone's camera up on the code.

The film was shown after the Hollywood u3a's zoom AGM on Friday 23 April. Copies of it are also available on DVD for u3a members who can watch a DVD but cannot attend the zoom meetings.

Alternatively, the link to the YouTube page with the film is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHBD4KMOfgsandfeature=youtu.be>.

The film is also now accessible on the Hollywood u3a website.

History Group High Street Project

The History Group are continuing their project researching the shops in Hollywood town centre. Based on this material, a forthcoming edition of the *Spectator* will feature a selection of historic photographs of shops and advertisements that will be of interest to many.

From our Gardening Group

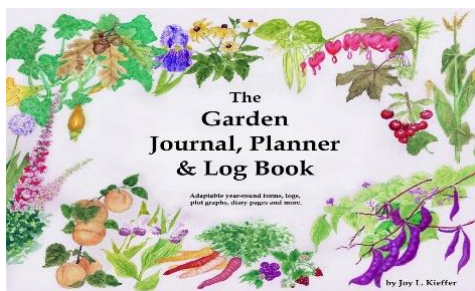
Some gardening jobs and again some of our members' gardening hints:



1. Prune forsythia once finished flowering, cutting back to strong young shoots.
2. Divide hostas before they come into leaf.
3. Lift and divide perennial plants to improve vigour.
4. Pinch out the tips of fuschia and sweet pea to encourage bushy plants.
5. Add liquid fertiliser round the dying foliage of daffodils, tulips and other spring bulbs.
6. Trim winter flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, prevents becoming leggy.
7. Lift forget-me-nots to prevent heavy seeding and to reduce spreading.
8. Prune out overcrowded and dead stems of early-flowering clematis after flowering.
9. Tie in climbing and rambling roses.
10. Before planting, soak evergreens in water for 20 mins so the root ball is wet to the centre. If they are planted dry, they can take weeks to hydrate fully which means the plants may suffer. When moving established evergreens, soak the roots the day before to reduce the shock.
11. When watering make small 'wells' around individual plants so that the water can soak the soil to about 25cm (10in). Merely wetting the surface wastes water, encourages weeds and can lead to surface rooting making plants more vulnerable.
12. Divide primroses and snowdrops once they have finished flowering.
13. Prune penstemons by cutting back all the old shoots to the base, provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.



14. Cut back hydrangea paniculata by 1/3rd each year and blooms will remain showy.
15. Feed potatoes with high phosphorous liquid as are heavy feeders.
16. If growing foxgloves, remove the main (King) spire. This allows the smaller (Prince) spires to grow better and will prolong flowering.
17. When pruning an overgrown shrub do it gradually and only reduce by one third each year when new shoots start to appear so rising sap will seal cuts, prevent infection and die back. Also always prune to outward facing bud or leaf joint.
18. Feed weekly and weakly.
19. Pest repellent spray - Crush garlic bulbs and add warm water. Allow to steep for 24 hrs and then use as a spray on all manner of plants. Needs to be repeated every 7 to 10 days but will make the leaves unpalatable to slugs and other pests.
20. Keep a Garden Journal and include photos. You can build up a very heartening record of amazing changes and growth and it is also useful to log details of dates, names, and successes/failures (and why).



If you would like to join our Gardening Group, please see the Gardening Group section on the Holywood District u3a website.

Our new u3a Beacon System

Members will see reference to our new Beacon system on emails from members of the Committee.

Allen Young kindly explains what it is about:

Hollywood District U3A has signed up to the national U3A software system called Beacon. It is a web-based system that allows individual U3As to manage their membership, group and finance information. Having taken our first steps in January 2021, with the help of U3A national support we have been able to transfer all our membership and finance data onto the new system.

The benefit to members is that they can be sure that their personal information is held on a secure site that complies with data privacy legislation. For U3A officers and the committee, the benefit is both enabling us to fulfil our duty to meet data protection and privacy requirements, while also being able to manage U3A business more efficiently. Group leaders will also be able to manage their list of group members and circulate information more easily.

Members may find that they are communicated with more promptly and will receive emails that say the email “was sent by Beacon on behalf of membership@holywoodu3a.org” or perhaps on behalf of the Secretary or the Group Convenor.

If you have any questions or issues about the system, please contact Allen Young, who is acting as Beacon administrator, by email at membership@holywoodu3a.org

Invitation To U3A Regional Zoom Quiz

Calling all quizzers for the honour of Hollywood u3a; hopefully Hollywood members will make up a team or two.

NIREC invites all NI u3as to enter teams for the 2021 Regional Quiz, hosted by Causeway u3a, on **Monday 24th May** at 14:30.

The Zoom Host is Brendan Mullan and questions will be set by Venie Martin, both from Causeway u3a. The quiz format will be 6 themed rounds of 10 questions, with each correct answer worth 2 points. Zoom makes it easy to include multiple choice, picture, music or film rounds, so some of these will be included. The quiz is expected to last around 2 hours.

There should be no more than 2 teams from each u3a. Teams may consist of up to 5 members, with a captain nominated to submit answers on behalf of the team to the Zoom Host.

Submit entries to zoom@causewayu3a.co.uk by Monday 17th May at the latest, with the following information:

- Team name and u3a
- Team members' names
- Which member is the designated Team Captain
- A contact email address.

To make the quiz as close to the face-to-face experience as possible, we will use Zoom Meeting Rooms and Google Forms. The Quiz Hosts will introduce each round and send the questions for that round on a Google Form to all participants. The teams will then be sent into an individual Meeting Room, which allows each team to discuss and agree their answers. The Team Captain submits their answers on the Google Form and members will then be automatically returned to the main meeting room for the next round.

Causeway u3a has found this to be an effective and easy format to use. However, a short practice session has been scheduled to ensure the Quiz goes smoothly on the day. This will be on Friday 21st May at 14:00 and should last 30 minutes or less. It is not necessary for everyone to attend this practice session but at least one Team member, preferably the Team Captain, should attend if you have not used Zoom Meeting Rooms or Google Forms before.

The Zoom links for the trial session and the Quiz will be sent out to the registered teams, a few days prior to the quiz.

Our Holywood Maypole

It was a dark day in February when the top of our Maypole - the only one in Ireland - came crashing down. It will be replaced by the Borough Council. For almost four centuries it has been wooden – traditionally the first was a spar from a Dutch ship which had run aground off Holywood, though that may be apocryphal. But wood rots. So the Council are sensibly looking at options for its replacement, including using modern materials such as powder-coated aluminium that would look better and last longer, as well as being largely maintenance free. There is no date yet for the replacement work.

Members of the History Group have suggested to the Council that it would be fun to draw on the range of photographs in the Library Archive and other sources to mount a small exhibition to mark

the occasion. This charming poem about the fate of a previous maypole was written by Helen Hobcroft.

Ode to the Maypole

It's gone and we all miss it
It was there for many a day.
You could see it from outside the church
And from ships that pass that way.
It was a famous meeting place
For young and old they say.
And our children danced around it
On the first of May.

One evening on an empty street
A lorry tried to back.
The driver must have got a shock
To hear a fearful crack.
Luckily for him it fell
And didn't hit a soul.
I'm sure by now you've guessed
It was our Holywood Maypole.

Helen Hobcroft

And a poetic **P.S.** written by a member of the u3a History Group:

And now in February of '21
On a wild and stormy night.
A large section of the maypole blew off
And in the morning made such a sad sight.

One Holywood resident had shown the town's grief
As on its base had placed a wreath
For a town where its historic maypole had stood
Over 400 year in times bad and in good.

So a plea to our Councillors who sit in Bangor
That we in Holywood won't show any anger
If it is replaced without delay
As we the residents our rates do pay.

That once over these times of grief and strife
Our town may once again come to life
Its children can dance around its maypole on a fine May Day
Hoping that for many years to come, that it will stay.

More Bird Wisdom from Dot Blakely

I have been asked if some of our garden birds are monogamous. Well, this depends on the lifestyle of the bird, the nesting season its food, habitat etc.

For a start, take the wren. In early spring, the male can take up a breeding territory: a sheltered habitat of thick brambles, hedgerow, ivy, tree trunk etc. He sings from one corner to the other of his site. He will build a few ball-shaped nests, at where he thinks are suitable nest sites. Then the female



comes along and decides which nest is in the right spot, as us ladies know best. She will line the moss-covered ball nest with lots of soft feathers. But he is not monogamous but polygamous (having more than one female at the same time). To make things worse, she is in the same territory, perhaps in the next-door nest. His main aims in life (which can be between 2 and 7 years) are to spread his genes!

On the other hand, robins remain monogamous until the end of the nesting season and can have two or three broods. For them, staying together and knowing each other, helps to increase their family.

After the season they go their own way but meet up again in the spring.

Most of our garden birds have a short life between from 2 or 3, up to 7 years. They all have different hardships, if we have a very dry hot or very wet summer, that in turn affects the availability of flies, spiders, insects.

Anagrams (kindly contributed by one of our former (external) Speakers)

The first four anagrams in this list are current tennis players, then we have six from the past. They come from Serbia, USA (3), Switzerland (2), Romania, Germany (2) and Czechoslovakia.

Vodka Jock Vino

Mineralise awls

Referred ogre

Opaline mash

Lend anvil

My so micron jinn

Coke bribers

Faffs tiger

Richer vets

Tarnishing aim

Zoom Sessions with Libraries NI

Our own Holywood Library is promoting a wide range of free zoom sessions which can be booked online, through the Libraries NI website. They include: how to avoid Scams; how to use Facebook Messenger, and how to make digital photobooks; practice using zoom itself; and how to download the Overdrive app to get access to e-books from the Library. On the website, www.librariesni.org.uk, the free computer courses are found under *Got IT? And Go On*.

PSNI warn of fraudsters impersonating police officers

Detectives from PSNI's Economic Crime Unit are warning the public to be vigilant following reports of criminals posing as police officers.

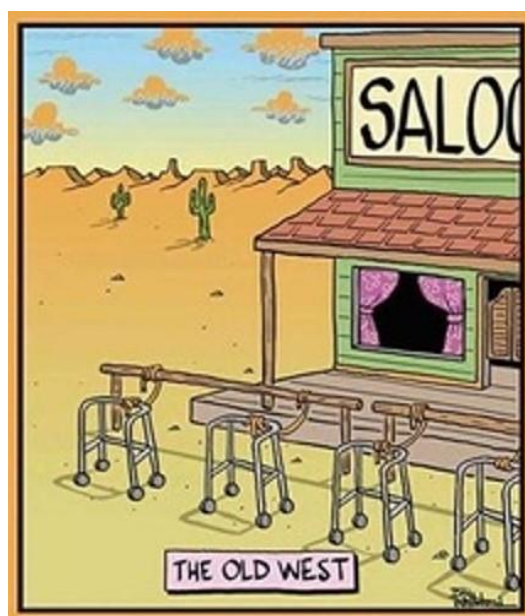
Police have recently received numerous reports from residents across Northern Ireland contacted by people claiming to be officers asking them to withdraw money from their accounts and hand over bank cards, jewellery and other valuables.

Detective Inspector Joanne Harris, from the Economic Crime Unit, says: "Over recent days, we have seen an increase in the number of scams reported to us where fraudsters pose as police officers. Unfortunately, this has resulted in people losing large sums of money and valuables with some

"Our message is simple, never ever disclose any personal or banking details to anyone over the phone or online, no matter where they say they are calling from or how convincing they may seem."

Protecting your personal information and banking details is extremely important. If you have received a call of this kind or if you are concerned by the intent of unsolicited calls, emails or letters, then please call police on the non-emergency number 101, make a report to Action Fraud via their website www.actionfraud.police.uk or by phoning 0300 123 2040.

For further advice and information visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwiseni or the ScamwiseNI Facebook page @scamwiseni.



Gardening Wordsearch (with thanks to CHSNI)

R	T	E	G	N	I	W	O	R	G	A	S	S	Y
R	D	R	C	L	A	W	N	M	O	W	E	R	T
E	L	T	O	A	W	S	P	A	D	E	E	W	D
O	T	G	N	S	T	I	E	L	W	K	I	F	W
E	N	R	T	S	T	T	E	R	C	N	P	L	E
R	O	E	A	T	R	R	E	O	D	L	L	O	E
D	K	E	I	O	E	M	R	O	S	N	A	W	D
I	N	N	N	O	L	E	W	O	R	T	N	E	S
B	E	H	E	L	L	S	S	W	B	C	T	R	T
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E	L	U	S	L	S	I	T	W	G	N	N	O	E
R	E	S	L	E	L	R	I	E	G	D	G	T	P
F	R	E	W	O	R	R	A	B	L	E	E	H	W
A	T	S	O	P	M	O	C	E	O	R	E	H	W

GREENHOUSE
 WINDOWSILL
 HEDGES
 KNEELER
 ROCKERY

CONTAINERS
 WHEELBARROW
 DIBBER
 FLOWERPOT
 COMPOST

STOOL
 WEEDS
 LAWNMOWER
 TROWEL
 SPADE

GROWING
 PLANTING
 TRELLIS