



***Hollywood at Home* Issue 10**

(of 20 November)

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the 10th Edition of *Hollywood at Home*!

It's hard to believe that Hollywood at Home was started last March, eight months ago. I trust you have enjoyed our U3a connection through the Magazine and join me in saying a huge 'thank you' to Robin and Rosemary for putting it all together and also to our wonderful contributors who provided many interesting articles to entertain us all.

The Committee hope you, your family and friends keep well and encourage you to learn, laugh and live with your U3a.

With my Best Wishes,

Liz

We are delighted to be currently organising Monthly General Meetings and hope that you will join us via Zoom, until we can meet again in person.

Our first meeting will be on:

Monday 23rd November at 10.30 am via Zoom

'Going East to West'

with Sue McKay

Blue Badge Guide.

Sue will tell us about many points of interest on our journey from East Belfast to Hollywood.

Members will have received their email (sent out on 16th Nov) via our new Mailchimp system, giving you the Zoom Link to enable you to join the Meeting. (This is not shown in *Hollywood at Home* as it is for members only.)

The maximum number admitted to a Zoom Pro meeting is 130. I hope you will be able to join us.

Just remember you need to make your own cup of tea or coffee, settle into your comfy chair and enjoy!

Please make a note now to keep free Tuesday 15 December at 10.30am for our next General Meeting, which will have a Christmas theme. Members will be sent their email nearer the time.

Zoom Advice:

You will need to download zoom to your device if you do not already have it. (There is no charge.)

You can use this link to do so. <https://zoom.us/download>

Then on Monday 23 Nov just touch/click the link in the Holywood U3A email which you will have been sent, and you will be taken to the meeting.

When you make the connection, you may be asked to use internet audio, so agree to this. In a large group it is a good idea to mute your microphone by touching the screen and then the mic symbol which should get a line through it. On the iPad it is top right as is your camera, which needs to be on for us all to see you.

As it can take some time to get everyone settled, we propose joining at 10.15.am to be ready to start the meeting at 10.30am.

History Group

It was good to meet up for the first time via Zoom on Wednesday 4 November.

That meeting seemed to work well and we had a good discussion about our new project on the History of the shops and businesses in Holywood – see Norma's article below. We will be pleased to hear from anyone who has stories or photos about the businesses in the town.

Our 2nd History group, probably via Zoom, is on Wednesday, 2 December at 10.30am when Robin Masefield will tell us about 'An Ulsterman in 19th century China'.

We had hoped to hold this as a real meeting in the Parish Hall, of St Philip and St James, if the restrictions permitted. We would be limited to a maximum of 25 Persons attending (wearing masks please). But it may have to be over Zoom again.

If you want to join us, please contact Audrey Lockhart at lockhart440@btinternet.com by Monday, 30 November and she will send you the necessary details, including how to connect via zoom if it has to be that way.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

PS The History Archive Team are producing a Children's Christmas Trail for Holywood. Copies will be available from Holywood Library. While it is intended for children of primary school age, it is hoped that families will enjoy walking the trail round the town, getting to know its historical attractions better. No U3A member should feel debarred - but you may not get a prize!

Poem

Here is the link to a rather special poem, entitled *Noli Timere*. It was written for the MAC and voiced by Clare Dwyer Hogg. Members may recall she talked to our general meeting a year or two ago. She now lives outside Holywood which is where it was filmed.

<https://youtu.be/JwdVedQJdr0>

Hollywood District U3A - UK-wide Survey of High Streets

A challenge was issued to all U3As in the UK regarding a survey of how our local high streets had changed during the current Covid crisis. At least 600 groups responded. This will be repeated in a year's time to see what has changed. Hollywood District were not slow in responding. Some of our interested members decided to survey our High Street.

Valerie, Audrey and Dorothy went out, first to photograph the current shops and complete a questionnaire. This was returned, and then a wider group of members volunteered to do a more concentrated survey of High Street. So we decided to go a bit further and research the history of the premises on High Street as far back as we could.

There was already a wealth of information in the Library archives which we had previously used for our exhibition on shops, schools and other facilities, and local publications were available to jog our memories – by Con Auld, Tony Merrick, the Ballagh family, David Gould, Ken Russell et al. The Library archive holds many other items of interest – postcards, photos and research by others before us, and we have consulted these in our quest.

As you will see from the poem in a previous issue of Hollywood at Home, there is a nostalgia about one's home town and although some members have memories of High Street going back to the 1930s, everyone's contribution is valuable. Even those from the wider fringes of our Hollywood District could have memories to share – almost everyone in East Belfast had occasion to call at Tog's for an ice cream on a summer Sunday afternoon. Even now, I know of some folk who come to High Street to visit the butchers or bakeries.

I was particularly interested in researching the butcher's shop which is still called Orr's although Denis has long retired. It passed through various owners, as my late husband was able to tell me. He and Larry McWilliams rode the message bikes and delivered meat to many houses as far as Craigavad. No plastic bags in those days – sometimes the orders got mixed up as there was just a paper wrapping between each order. Service was key, and they knew where the meat safe for each house was if there was no one at home.

I would appeal to all members – if you have any memory of “old times” in Hollywood, please contact Audrey, Valerie or me.

Norma Cooper

A Brief Pageant of Verse - for some literary ladies who travel.

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.

About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow,
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

Gardening Group

A member of our Gardening Group has kindly provided this list of some of the jobs to do in the garden in November and December:

Winter is on the way - Leaves are falling rapidly, and wind and rain are on the increase. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rain. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds

1. Keep tubs and containers tidy
2. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
4. Clear leaves and debris from alpines
5. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
6. Plant out winter bedding
7. Lift and divide herbaceous perennials.
8. Clear up weedy beds ready for spring mulching
9. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
10. Insulate outdoor containers from frost – bubblewrap works well
11. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
12. Apply a mulch to protect plants that are borderline hardy.
13. Order bulky organic matter for use as a soil improver or mulch.
14. Cut back faded herbaceous perennials and add them to the compost heap or leave these until spring so that they can be used as winter homes for insects.

Two additional important tasks

- Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden.
- Order seed catalogues to select next year's bedding and perennial choices.....and look forward to a colourful 2021.





Kathleen Robb O.B.E.

In the first Issue of *Hollywood at Home*, we made a point of including an item on notable local medical practitioners. It is timely to include this obituary on one of the most distinguished in her field.

Kathleen Robb died recently at the age of 97 in the Sir Samuel Kelly Nursing Home in Hollywood. She had lived in Helen's Bay since 1990, moving there from a family home in Dundonald.

Miss Robb was the last person to hold the title of Matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and has been described as one of the most outstanding and notable nurses that Northern Ireland has produced. Born in Belfast in 1923 she began her career as a nurse at the Belfast Hospital for Sick Children in 1941. In 1966 she was appointed Matron of the RVH, having served previously as a Sister there and as Matron of the City and Tower Hill Hospitals in Armagh. In 1974, as a result of Health Service reforms she became the District Administrative Nursing Officer for North and West Belfast, responsible for community nursing and hospital services in one of the most deprived areas of Belfast. While Matron, the Troubles began and the RVH became a major centre treating the victims of the conflict while often being directly in the frontline. Her service was recognised when she was created Officer Sister of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1970 and awarded the OBE in 1973.

Kathleen was a prominent figure in the Royal College of Nursing and her contribution to the College and to nursing more widely was recognised when in 1977 she was created a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing, the highest honour the College can bestow. In 2003 she received the RCN Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2016 she was centre stage when nurses were given the Freedom of the City of Belfast in recognition for their service during the Troubles.

Kathleen Robb was a member and supporter of organisations too numerous to list in full; they included the Bayburn Historical Society. She was a member of the Methodist congregation at Knock, Belfast where her funeral service was held.

National U3A Winter Learning Programme

The U3A nationally has advised Branches of a range of free learning opportunities. They are available at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>.

Initiatives are being released on a staggered basis to keep people's interest and participation over the winter. Events which require members to book are at:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. The website will be updated regularly so members should be encouraged to keep checking these pages. Here are a dozen initiatives which may be of interest to our members:

Programme of free talks delivered by members (currently being sourced). Talks confirmed to date:

- Mayan civilization,
- How to write your living history
- Yoga
- Bridge tutorials for beginners and improvers
- Crown green bowling
- Philosophy
- Cryptic crosswords
- Japan
- Other TBC.

Winter Watch. Members send in pictures of winter gardens, scenes, animals etc. Launched 20 October, regular weekly updating.

Battle of Britain and the Blitz. Members are encouraged to send in their stories of their experiences/ those of their families and friends. Stories will go up on the website. Launched late October.

Paint or Draw (POD) - The monthly art challenge. Similar to u3a Eye. Members send in pictures of their original artwork on a monthly theme. Up to 15 images are chosen for the online gallery. No prizes, just prestige. Launched late October.

Friday watercolour painters - A series of five workshops led by a u3a member where participants are shown how to produce a finished piece of artwork at the end. Pictures of the final artworks to go up on an online gallery. Starts 20 November. Advertised at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Programme of 'external' talks. It includes:

- Guildhall Art Gallery – Pre-recorded talk about the Romans. Date TBC
- National Trust – History of the National Trust (free). Date TBC
- British Library – Christmas literature (free). Date TBC
- Southwark Cathedral – TBC
- National Army Museum - TBC

Christmas Choir – Group carol singing led by the U3A member who led the previous choir sessions. 10 December. A new weekly choir initiative, working towards a recorded song to start in January 2021.

Ongoing initiatives at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

- U3A Eye – Fortnightly photograph challenge on a different theme each time.
- Maths challenge – weekly
- Quiz – weekly
- Birdwatch – Continuous with weekly updating
- Creative Covid Collaboration – Members create 'squares' to form a digital patchwork. Continuous
- Ideas to keep learning – weekly
- Diary – now closed, submissions for each week to the end of July available to read
- Creative Writing Competition 2020. Winners announced. The 13 regional winners' stories are available to read.

January - A series of Winter Schools are planned for 11 Jan – end Feb 2021.

Another Brian Bilston Poem:

On Looking at My Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 This calendar hangs | 3 from a nail on the wall. | 4 | 5 It reminds me what I had planned | 6 | 7 now won't happen at all. | 8 |
| 9 | 10 A whirl of activity - | 11 dinner parties and dates, | 12 | 13 nights at the opera, | 14 | 15 raves, village fetes, |
| 16 poetry recitals, | 17 | 18 invitations to balls, | 19 tea at the palace - | 20 | 21 now meaningless scrawls. | 22 |
| 23 Everything cancelled, | 24 postponed, rearranged. | 25 Who am I kidding? | 26 Not much has changed. | 27 | 28 I'm not one to whirl! | 29 it makes me feel dizzy. |
| 30 I made these things up | 31 to pretend I was busy. | | | | | <i>Brian Bilston</i> |

A Suggestion for a Walk

As fresh air is good for all of us, the following is a walk suggested by a Holywood District U3A member. It is a walk which perhaps you may have already done but not recently or it may be a new possibility – either way the views are well worth the effort of the climb back to the car park! (NB The H@H editor, who has done it in summer, says it can be muddy so please have appropriate footwear!)

Lisnabreeny Path to Cregagh Glen Walk.

- Linear walk – 1.5 miles each way.
- Strenuous walk in that it is an unsurfaced path with steep climb and steps. Walking boots recommended. Path can be rather muddy.
- Start at the small National Trust car park on the Lisnabreeny Road, Castlereagh (BT6 9SR). This car park is 0.8 miles once you turn off Manse Road and is on the right-hand side, past the Breeny Boarding Kennels.
- From the car park follow the signposted path downhill, past the best preserved Rath or Hill Fort remaining anywhere in NI. Superb views over Belfast and Co Down to the Ards Peninsula and the Mourne Mountains.
- After passing the side of Lagan College, the underpass takes you under the Manse Road and into Cregagh Glen heading towards the Upper Knockbreda Road.
- Attractive glen with waterfalls. Variety of wild life with bluebells and wood anemones in spring time.
- The former American Military Cemetery is well signposted in the glen – accessed across a field.
- Retrace your steps to return to the car park.

Imponderables

We are indebted to Grace Burnside for these weighty conundra!

* How can you identify a person using their dental records?
If you don't know who they are, you certainly won't know who their dentist is.

* How can you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

* If nothing sticks to Teflon, how does it stay on the pan?

* Why is it that night falls but day breaks?

* Why is a boxing ring square?

* If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

* How does the man who drives the snow plough get to work?

* Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

Wordsearch: Can you find the following Christmas words?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A | d | s | l | h | t | i | x | p | s | p | u | d | d | i | n | g | t | n |
| B | e | l | j | t | h | s | n | i | t | b | p | u | m | s | f | r | u | y |
| C | c | e | o | r | s | c | f | q | o | e | s | a | n | t | a | e | r | x |
| D | o | i | s | e | e | a | u | d | c | t | r | w | y | a | l | i | k | f |
| E | r | g | e | e | e | r | b | t | k | h | u | d | k | b | j | n | e | c |
| F | a | h | p | u | f | o | r | i | i | l | d | e | u | l | s | d | y | h |
| G | t | y | h | a | h | l | s | n | n | e | o | c | s | e | x | e | c | r |
| H | i | z | o | j | e | s | u | s | g | h | l | e | w | f | p | e | z | i |
| I | o | w | r | h | l | m | l | e | n | e | p | m | g | c | g | r | v | s |
| J | n | b | b | j | l | m | i | l | v | m | h | b | c | c | r | i | b | t |
| K | s | h | e | p | h | e | r | d | s | z | r | e | i | j | t | h | k | m |
| L | r | w | g | s | n | o | w | n | h | a | n | r | z | y | m | d | l | a |
| M | e | g | t | g | m | j | m | a | r | y | s | r | c | n | z | v | t | s |
| N | z | i | p | a | u | y | p | r | e | s | e | n | t | s | k | i | w | x |
| O | o | y | t | h | r | e | e | w | i | s | e | m | e | n | a | e | z | p |
| P | u | u | t | v | h | s | e | l | e | c | t | i | o | n | b | o | x | k |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Christmas | 7. stocking | 13. bethlehem | 19. tree |
| 2. sleigh | 8. pudding | 14. threewisemen | 20. tinsel |
| 3. santa | 9. turkey | 15. stable | 21. decorations |
| 4. jesus | 10. selectionbox | 16. december | 22. reindeer |
| 5. crib | 11. mary | 17. rudolph | 23. shepherds |
| 6. snow | 12. joseph | 18. presents | 24. carols |

