

Hollywood at Home Issue 7 (of 20 August)

Letter from your U3A Chairperson:

Welcome to Hollywood at Home!

As we progress through the summer we are beginning to do more than was possible a month ago.

Advice on meeting as U3A members is changing and we will work through it carefully to re-establish our activities when guidelines allow. Do have a read through the National Newsletter to follow the developments via our website.

Thanks to Robin and Rosemary and to all who have contributed articles for this month's magazine.

Membership...

After much cogitation, deliberation and digestion, your Executive Committee have come up with a great plan to keep Membership of our U3A community together.

Membership subscriptions are now due and can be paid any time between now and March 2021.

Thank you to all who have already paid.

The membership subscription remains £20, but because there will be fewer activities this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are offering membership for two years at the price of one!

Therefore the membership subscription will cover from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022.

If you are not sure if you have paid this year, email Allen Young to check at membership@hollywoodu3a.org

Please send your cash now, or cheques made out to *Hollywood District U3A*, to: Allen Young, 2 Riverside, Hollywood, BT18 9DB

Local and Wider U3A News:

The Northern Ireland Regional Executive Committee held its AGM on 3 August, successfully over Zoom. Ten of the NI Branches were represented including our own Hollywood. A lively discussion covered various topics, not least how Branches may be able to resume some of their activities.

The main UK-wide AGM will be held on 29 September.

The Hollywood U3A Committee met on 10 August and discussed what may be possible. Our bowlers have resumed their outdoor bowling at Seapark for some weeks. The History Group had set up a lovely historical walk – for a limited number of pre-booked members - round Hollywood on 5 August which, alas, had to be postponed as the weather was awful that

morning. They plan to do a similar walk in Donaghadee on 2 September – open to History Group members on a pre-booked basis.

From the local History Group

Could a Hollywood man's 150 year-old dream of a Link between NI and the UK become a reality?

Debates on Brexit, and in particular the transport links between the UK mainland and Northern Ireland, continue to be highlighted with press coverage of Boris Johnson's ambitious plan to bridge the Irish Sea. However, over 150 years earlier, an engineer, who had lived in Hollywood, envisioned a rail link beneath the waves. This gentleman was Luke Livingstone Macassey, a water engineer and a barrister as well as an architect, who drew up several options for the unlikely infra-structure project '*in order for national identity and the promotion of the British Empire*' which were a motivation for Macassey at the time.

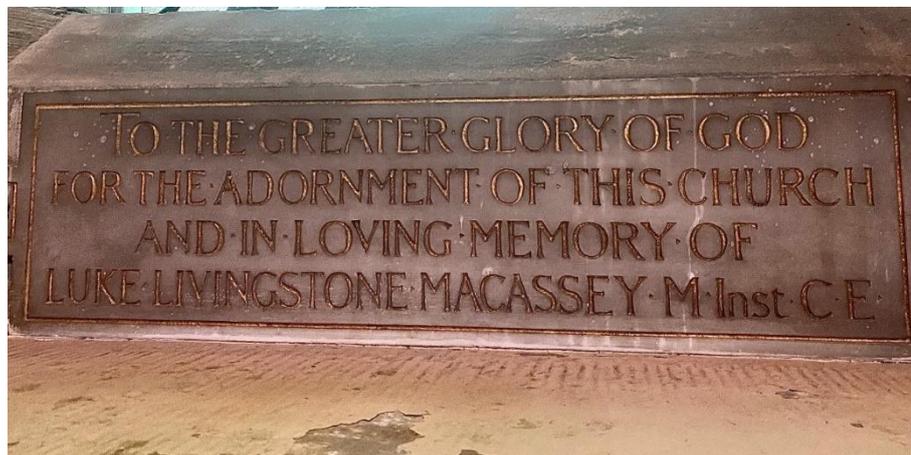
Luke Macassey was born in Carrickfergus in 1843 and records show he later resided in Hollywood, initially at Ardmore Terrace (possibly as a tenant), and by 1890 had moved to Stanley House on Church Road where he was to remain until about 1902.

Macassey was a prominent member of the Select Vestry of Hollywood Parish and two stained glass windows dedicated to Kings David and Solomon were erected in his memory and can be seen on the North Aisle of the church.

In the 1880 *Directory for Belfast and Ulster*, he is described as both an architect and engineer with an office at 5 Lombard Street, Belfast. His office was later at 7 Chichester Street, Belfast where there is a blue plaque commemorating him. A member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, he compiled a series of reports in the 1890s regarding the most suitable location of the proposed new water supply for Belfast and district. Various sites in Counties Antrim and Down, including



Lough Neagh, were assessed and as Jack Loudan in his book "*In Search of Water*" (published in 1940) recounts in detail, the Silent Valley in the Mourne Mountains was recommended and accepted as being the most suitable. It



was selected on the grounds that it is over 2,000 feet above sea level, and hence would give a good pressure despite being 40 miles from Belfast, has enormous capacity, the water quality is good and would cause disruption to few people living nearby.

Sadly, Mr Macassey died aged 65, shortly before work began. In the 1920s his son, Sir Lynden Macassey K.C., served in an inquiry held in relation to the running of the scheme.

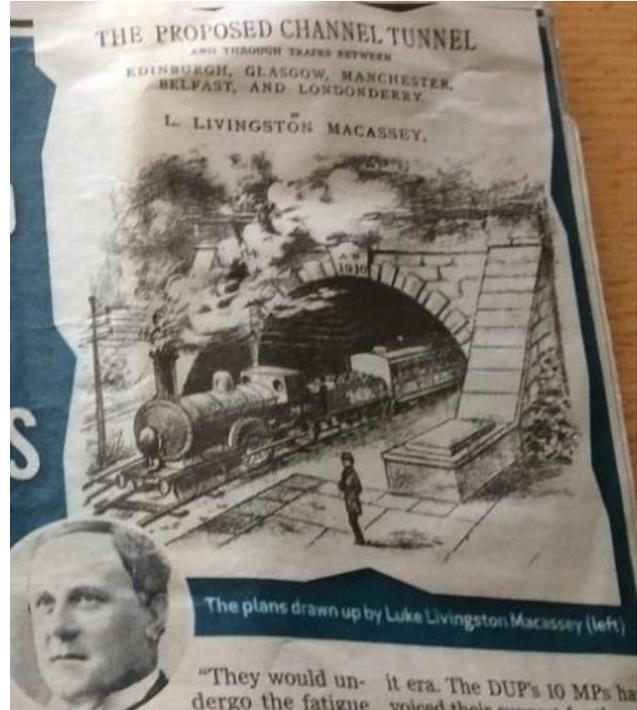
Luke Livingstone Macassey is buried in Belfast City Cemetery but his links with the town of Holywood will live on and will be remembered - whether we turn on the tap for a glass of water or live long enough to see if his idea of a link across the Irish Sea becomes a reality.

(PS Thanks for their help to Tony Merrick and Noel Brown. As described in Robin Masefield's book on the Holywood to Bangor Railway, work was actually begun in 1886 on a tunnel starting in Donaghadee.

To quote from page 59 which cited a contemporary report: 'An eminent public engineer says: *Personally I have no doubt as to the ultimate success of the project.*

Opposition is a thing to be expected and

surmounted.' Was this Macassey himself? And isn't that a positive approach to life!)



Common Sayings - Challenged

With many thanks to Grace Burnside for this lovely collection of common sayings, challenged.

* *The early bird catches the worm - but the second mouse gets the cheese.*

* *If at first you don't succeed - perhaps Russian Roulette is not for you.*

* *Red sky at night - the shed's alight.*

* *A new broom sweeps clean - but the old broom knows all the corners.*

* *The pen is mightier than the sword - but only if the nib is very sharp and the sword is very small.*

* *If you're happy and you know it - keep it to yourself.*

Have you downloaded the StopCOVID NI app yet?

It is quick and simple for most mobile phones, and we are all being encouraged to download it, if we can.

This is the link: <https://covid-19.hscni.net/stop-covid-ni-mobile-app/>

Socially Distanced Bridge

I am indebted to one of our U3A members for this wonderful photograph of socially distanced bridge. And with the use of individual dummy boards, every eventuality is catered for!



THE MONTHLY QUIZ:

Chris Hewitt has challenged us: CAN YOU NAME AT LEAST A DOZEN INDOOR GAMES SUITABLE FOR TOURNAMENTS? (14 options are listed below.)

The Gardening Group's Contribution:

In case anyone is what to give a relative interested in few suggestions of our Gardening



looking for ideas as to or friend who is gardening, here are a provided by members Group.

My ideal gardening gift (apart from a solution to the slug and snail problem!) would be a good pair of gardening gloves. Ideally they would be a good fit, impervious to thorns, waterproof and insulated for winter and with longish sleeves to protect my arms in the summer when I am gardening in a tee shirt as a lot of the plants irritate my skin! **CG**

I was just the thinking the other day a great gift I received had been scissors and twine always at hand – see photo. **EMcC**

I have come to the rather boring conclusion that my favourite gift is a plant. So many garden centres now stock the same common plants, that it's lovely when someone gives me something unusual, especially with advice on how to grow. And then when doing my garden rounds I am reminded of that person and sometimes old memories. I have various bits and pieces brought from people's gardens that I would never have been able to buy. **SW**



I would really love to receive a good size Cornus Kousa Tree! **LMcC**

Crabtree & Evelyn Gardener's Hand Therapy Cream for both before and after gardening. **JG**

In my case a really good brush and scraper to keep the square sets free from weeds. So far I haven't found one that does what it says on the tin. **VL**

A gardening bag with pockets so I can carry a trowel, hand fork, secateurs, spare gloves, gardening scissors, string, brush and dust pan, with me around the garden. Ideal as I move from garden to garden. Gardening scissors are great for very small jobs. **DT**

A new pair of secateurs would be great. *AJ*

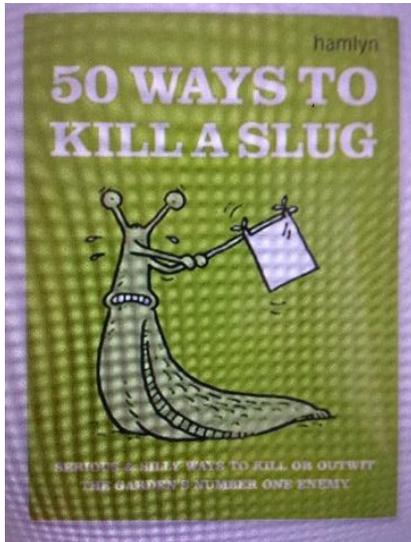
An item I have but also have bought as presents for friends with raised beds is a long handled hoe with a very thin and narrow head which makes hoeing so much easier than the normal sized hoe - as vegetables become larger and bushier and space becomes more limited this hoe slips between the rows very easily. *CT*

My ideal gift would be a rotating garden composter, to speed things up and avoid having to mix the compost which is a heavy job! No harm in thinking big!! *OC*

A Soil Testing Kit. *JG*

I would like to receive some plant supports eg round metal dahlia supports. *JB*

My latest interest is growing Sempervivum so a book offering advice would be great. I suppose that would be a Book Token. *VL*



A present that I would like to receive, though this is pricey, is a hot bin composter. It gives compost in about 90 days, it is about the size of a wheelie bin, so can fit in a small space, and by all accounts it gets the "thumbs up" from experienced gardeners!! *CT*

I would like a Garden Apron with two deep pockets to hold my secateurs and a small spade. Then I wouldn't need to spend time searching around to find where I had accidentally left them hidden among my plants! *LW*

On a humorous note, a copy of a little book I saw in a store but failed to purchase, *50 Ways to Kill a Slug* by Sarah Ford. Bit blood-thirsty but throwing them over the fence doesn't seem to work! *VL*

A VERY LONG hose that will stretch to every corner. *LMcC*

My ideal gardening gift would be an organised tour of the gardens of Kent. I would love to visit Sissinghurst, and the historical significance of Chartwell would be inspiring. *AD*

...and finally, perhaps the offer of a RELIABLE gardener who would work in all weathers! *LC*

An Opportunity to Share your Learning during recent months:

Since mid-March a number of us have turned to learning – to understand a little more about Covid-19 and its implications for us, our families and for work. The Pandemic has highlighted to many of us our need to develop digital skills to ‘stay connected’ with family and friends. We may have also taken up learning to stay physically and mentally well.

Colin Neilands would love to hear your stories about what you have been learning! He works for Communitus, a provider of adult learning in Belfast, and invites U3A members to share their experiences of learning and its impact on them in terms of improving our health and well-being.

He suggests that written pieces should be no more than 500 words (you might include a photo of yourself as you learn a new skill or work on the computer!)

Please send your stories to Colin Neilands at www.communitus.co.uk by 30th September. He plans to have a webinar on this topic in early December to which contributors will be invited.

An Offer of more Learning Opportunities:

Queens University, Belfast are providing 5 free online courses:

Literature,
Creative Writing,
Italian for Beginners,
German for Beginners,
Religion.

For further information see qub.ac.uk/learning/open-for-learning

Household Hints:

If any members would like to share their household hints, that would be most welcome. I am sure a prize will again be on offer! One already supplied by an anonymous member is:
Place three ice cubes in the bottom of the oven when baking bread as the steam generated helps to prevent a hard crust forming.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1 Beetle Drive 2 Snooker 3 Darts 4 Draughts 5 Dominoes 6 Chess 7 Backgammon 8 Bingo 9 Badminton 10 Indoor Tennis 11 Table Tennis 12 Carpet Bowls 13 Card Games 14 Quizzes.

**Just a quick word of warning:
Do NOT let supermarket staff
take your temperature by
scanning your forehead, it
actually erases your memory. I
went in Tesco for lettuce
tomatoes and cucumber and
ended up buying beer and wine
instead 🙅**

