

# **Hollywood at Home Issue 8 (20 September)**

## **Chairperson's Letter**

Hello Everyone....

Welcome to the 8th Edition of Hollywood at Home.

Autumn is fast approaching and isn't it glorious to get such beautiful weather?

The Executive Committee has continued to meet via Zoom, and we are currently exploring ways to bring some monthly meetings to you.

If you have any ideas, feedback or articles for our magazine they would be very welcome.

As ever thank you to Robin and Rosemary and all those who have contributed to this Magazine.

Keep well and keep in touch,

Liz

## **Membership Secretary's Update**

Thanks to all the members who have renewed their subscriptions. Every day we receive a few more. However there are still quite a few who haven't yet renewed. If you are unsure if you have paid this year or not, please email me at [membership@hollywoodu3a.org](mailto:membership@hollywoodu3a.org)

I can quickly let you know if you are up to date. It is very worthwhile taking advantage of our current offer to have your membership extended right through to March 2022.

## **Has Covid -19 changed our High Street?**

During the month of September a small group of U3A members will carry out a survey of the shops and services in Hollywood High Street. This project will be part of a national survey which aims to take a 'snapshot' of the business activities in our town centres.

We think that shopping patterns in the UK were already changing, but these changes have been accelerated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Therefore in Hollywood it is planned to record the position of shops and services since 'lockdown' began in March 2020.

Follow-up work in 2021 will identify the longer-term impacts of the Pandemic as well as the historical aspects of the shopping areas surveyed throughout the UK. If you have noticed particular changes in Hollywood since 'lockdown' in March, please send your comments to [Dorothysalter@gmail.com](mailto:Dorothysalter@gmail.com)

## **TRUST U3A**

With some U3As temporarily closed because of Covid 19, Trust U3A (TU3A) was set up in April to allow members to experience U3A during lockdown until their local U3A reopened.

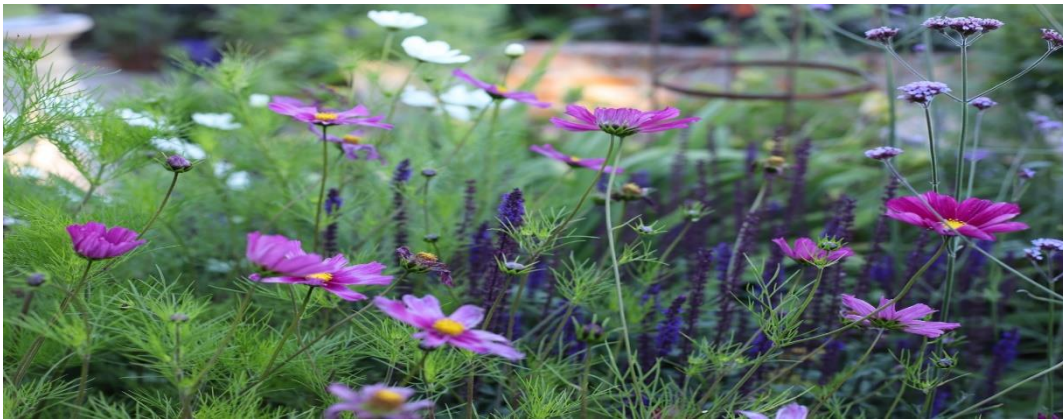
Trust U3A is a "virtual" U3A and while it was originally aimed at non-members, existing ones have joined. There are more than 30 interest groups which you can join and which are

entirely online. TU3A costs £7.50 for new members and £4 for existing U3A members. Why not have a look and see if there is something of interest for you there?

The site is <https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a>

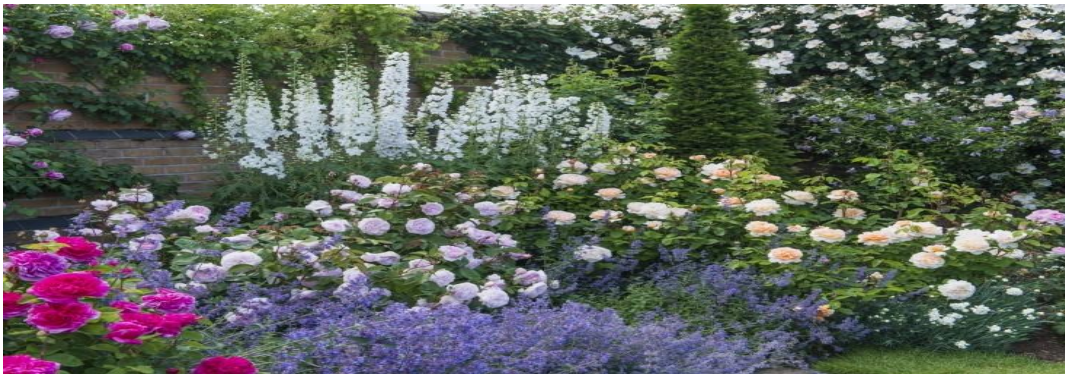
## Contribution from the Gardening Group

*For our December 2019 meeting, various members of the Gardening Group kindly contributed their 'Tried and Tested Tips' for sharing. Here is a further selection of some of the hints which may prove useful at this time of year. As stated previously, we cannot take responsibility for any of the tips which do not work out for whatever reason nor do we take any credit for those that work for you!*



- I have some lovely agapanthus in pots. When the flower dies and as seed head forming, I cut the stem down to base of plant and then feed with liquid seaweed or tomato feed every two weeks until mid-October.
- Tulips, crocuses, daffodils should be planted September/October. Check bulbs to ensure bulb is still in good order. Warm moist soil helps plants to settle in.
- If there is an area of the garden that has been neglected because other parts take precedence, don't forget grasses. Grasses grow in all sizes, shapes and colours and can give all year pleasure with the minimum of attention. They are also great for attracting insects.
- When planting something in the flowerbed, after digging the planting hole, fill it with water and let it drain away before putting in your plant and covering it with compost or soil. Then water again to remove any air gaps. This helps to prevent the new plant drying out.
- When planting new shrubs - cut the base from a plastic bottle and remove its cap. Turn upside down and push in beside the new plant, fill with water regularly to ensure the plant is well watered until established.
- Plant Cornus Alba Sibirica, the red stemmed dogwood, in the garden near an outside light so that you have the pleasure of seeing the scarlet stems at night during the bleak winter.

- Keep lavender pruned just when the flowers are starting to fade to avoid a strange shaped bush which only has growth at the very top but it will not regrow if you cut into the brown wood - always prune to outward facing bud or leaf joint.
- Honey is very useful for dipping cuttings into - it helps them to establish as it kills bacteria.
- Spike lawns coming into winter to help surface water drain.
- Finally visit a garden centre once every month and buy whatever plant is in flower and that you like. That way you will have colour in your garden all year round.... or alternatively visit a friend's gardens and ask for cuttings.



Happy gardening.

PS – If you are not already a member of the Gardening Group, new members are always welcome. Although we are currently unable to hold formal meetings, we do keep in touch via monthly emails etc and are continuing to explore other methods of communication. To join, please go to the Hollywood District U3A website and click into Groups – Gardening <https://hollywoodu3a.org/gardening/>

### **Tailpiece:**

Seen recently on a BBC Gardening Programme on allotments: ***'TRESPASSERS WILL BE COMPOSTED'***.

### **Try The World's Easiest Quiz**

1. How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get cat gut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hairbrush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George's first name?
8. What colour is a purple finch?
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
10. What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

## The History of The Firs, Hollywood

Along the Belfast Road, hidden behind a leafy driveway was a house with history – The Firs. It has now been demolished and is being developed and marketed by Lesley Residential. We must hope that an appropriate local name, eg The Firs, will be chosen, not least to reflect Hollywood’s image as ‘the historical gem of the Lough’.



It was most recently the home of the CCMS - the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools - but it has had several incarnations, as recorded by Con Auld in his book *Hollywood Then and Now*.

The Firs was built as a family residence in 1889. It was a fine example of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Tony Merrick tells us that the Payne family, from Belfast, lived there early in its history.

It later became the home of the Maguire family who bequeathed the property to the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. In 1944 they opened a private school, Mount St Mary’s, which closed two years later. In 1948 it became a residential hostel and then a school again in 1953 which ran until 1971.

In September 1971 the Order of Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary opened a Grammar School for girls. By 1975, there were over 300 pupils and 25 teachers. Con notes that the school choir, the *Priory Singers*, achieved much success in Irish music festivals, as well as locally. This photograph first appeared in the *Spectator* in 1979.



*The Great St Trinian’s fundraising day took place last Tuesday and it all began in Hollywood. The girls, all pupils of the Sacred Heart of Mary Grammar School, Hollywood, were taking part in the annual charity appeal day of the school. Apart from collecting in Hollywood the girls went to Belfast and held an open air disco among other things. 13/20-9*

In 1985 the School closed, being merged to form the College of Our Lady and St Patrick's at Knock. The building served initially then as the headquarters for the CCMS's informal predecessor the Catholic Maintained Commission.

The creation of CCMS in 1990 was of historic interest, as for the first time there was a statutory body with significant responsibilities for the governance and organisation of Catholic Maintained schools.

It is regrettable that another of Holywood's historic buildings has been allowed to slip into oblivion; perhaps the Firs' case was not helped by its position which made it invisible from the road.

## **YOUTUBE**

During lockdown I discovered YouTube, this is an online video site where people and companies can upload videos that anyone can then watch. Whatever your interests there will be a video about it — music, crafts, films, repairs, talks, etc.

I am a quilter and there are some wonderful sites where people demonstrate different techniques and patterns, I particularly like a video channel called 'the Missouri Star Quilt Company'. Videos of different quilts are posted on this channel every week so there is always something new to watch. Lots of ordinary people share their enthusiasm for what they do by having a video channel. They also earn money from doing so if they have lots of viewers as income is generated by YOUTUBE from adverts and then distributed to the producer of the video. Most videos are short 15- 30 mins.

You can subscribe to a channel you like and this helps their income but you do not pay anything unless you pick some of the commercial ones and you would be told there is a cost so you choose not to subscribe to those. All the ones I watch are free, another channel I love is called 'Living Big in a Tiny House' and each week the presenter visits a Tiny house, interviews the owners, and gives a tour of the house; it's amazing what people do with really tiny living spaces.

I am in a choir and you can find the music for each part of a piece of music and learn it as it's played for you. I sing soprano so I just get that music played whilst a ball goes along the notes and words - it's great!

So dip in and enjoy  
Dorothy Salter

## **Retirement - Notable Quotes** (with many thanks to Grace Burnside)

"The new thing you do when you retire is not doing anything."  
*Ronnie Barker*

"I pass my days in an incessant and delightful round of absolutely trivial events."  
*Queen Victoria in the Highlands, Lytton Strachey*

"I am disqualified by age from responsibilities or commitments."

*Birdsong, Sebastian Faulks*

"How good it is to do nothing and then rest a little."

*Old Andalusian saying*

"You don't stop having fun when you get old.

You get old when you stop having fun."

*George Bernard Shaw*

"If you're going to hit the buffers, you might as well do it at full speed."

*Stanley Johnson*

"With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come

And let my liver rather heat with wine

Than my heart cool with mortifying groans."

*The Merchant of Venice, William Shakespeare*

### **Answers to the World's Easiest Quiz**

1. 116 years
2. Ecuador
3. Sheep and horses
4. November
5. Squirrel Fur
6. Dogs
7. Albert
8. Crimson
9. New Zealand
10. Orange (of course!).

