

## ***Hollywood at Home, Issue 5 (22 June)***

### **Chairperson's Letter**

#### **Welcome to Hollywood at Home**

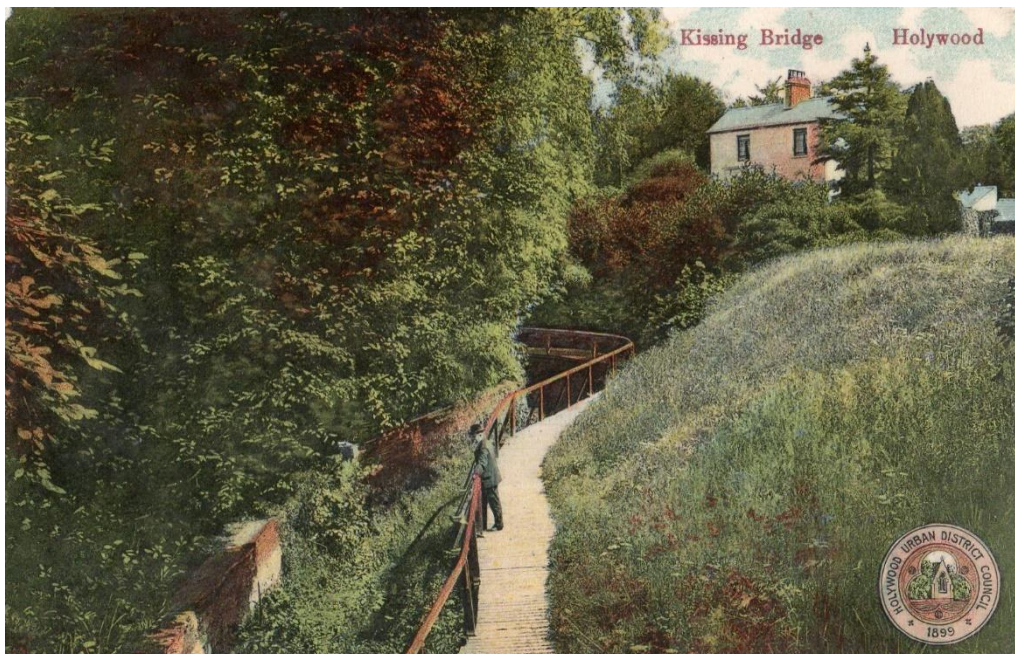
I hope you are all fit and well and starting to stretch your wings a little.

Robin and Rosemary have collated another interesting and fun Magazine for us to enjoy. Many thanks to both of you and to all our contributors.

We would be delighted to receive any articles, poems, photos from your gardens/walks, local stories, helpful information, jokes, quotes, snippets or anything else that you could share with other members.

This magazine is our way to keep in touch with each other until we can meet again.

Best wishes from your U3A Committee,  
Liz  
Chairperson



This lovely postcard dates from about 1900 – the man was clearly practising social distancing then! It must have been a dry summer, as there is no water in the Twisel river.

*Given only the first sentence 'I looked out of my window and saw', the writers of the U3A Creative Writing group each wrote three or more sentences in turn, a round-robin technique that produced the following short story for the Hollywood at Home e-magazine.*

### **The Encounter**

I looked out of my window and saw runners and joggers getting their allowed daily exercise on the pathway along the river. Not yet used to my pre-lockdown varifocal glasses, I saw a blurred object fall from an oblivious jogger and land in nearby bushes. Was it a phone? A small bag? What should I do? I did what seemed obvious: I ran out of my house towards the pathway, shouting at the fast-shrinking figure ahead. Just as I was within touching distance of the fallen object, my attention was grabbed by my friend waving frantically and yelling:

'Don't touch it! Don't touch it!'

'What are you doing here?' I shouted.

'What are you doing out?' she shouted back. 'I need groceries!'

'A jogger dropped something.'

'So what! You're not wearing any gloves.'

'It could be important. Or valuable.'

'Not enough to risk your health. Go home, Betty. I've got to go. You know how long the queues get.'

'Fine,' I mumbled and returned her wave as she hurried away. The pathway had suddenly emptied.

Curiosity overwhelming my friend's warning, I approached the object, a green velvet pouch, secured by a black cord decorated with tassels. A pungent smell met me, a dark stain spreading across one corner of the bag. Unable to stop myself, I reached around for a stick and gingerly crept forward.

'Don't move!' The voice was deep and commanding; the timbre, sharp. It took me by surprise and I bolted upright.

'Can you give me a reason why I shouldn't?' I asked innocently, turning to face him, my stick held firmly in my hand. What I wanted to say didn't pass my lips, despite already disliking him. He ignored me and moved closer to the bag but I would not give way.

'Out of the way! Now!' he demanded.

When I refused, he nimbly jumped to get past me, but I jumped too and blocked him.

Mirroring each other—social distancing mores flung to the wind—he jumped to the left, I to my right, again and again. Suddenly it occurred to me. That jogger had not been innocently getting his sanctioned exercise, nor had he accidentally dropped something. There was a lot more to this. A cold feeling crept up my spine as I studied the face of this implacable man. My friend was long gone; the path, empty; the green sodden bag a yard away.

'I know who you are,' I whispered.

A wry smile crossed his face. It was him, that man whose face had been all over the news, in the papers and on television, famous for developing a beauty product to reverse the effects of old age. No more wrinkles, no more cosmetic surgery, like that was important now. He suddenly darted forward and snatched the green, smelly bag by its tassels and ran off. I was left pondering the secret contents of the bag and the strange appearance of his baby-fresh face.

*Contributors: Sheila Blake, Ellen Duly, Gerry Gribben, Sandra Griffiths, Janine Houghton, Stephanie Leeman and Linde Schmundt. (Editor, Denise Dichard-Head)*



## Masks

### **To mask or not to mask? So much debate, so much differing advice!**

When I first started making masks, it was only for family and friends in case they became compulsory at some stage. However, I had to be sure that what I was giving them was safe, appropriate and reusable.

After much internet searching, I settled on a pattern by the Masks 4 All Ireland group started by Mary Murphy, a professional sewer and a trained aeronautical engineer who had researched and developed a pattern based on the science.

The group's premise was to bring sewers together to make masks using the same pattern, the one she developed, which could then be donated to those who were unable to obtain PPE and needed them. To date, Masks for All Ireland has supplied 55,000 masks to care homes, health care facilities and hospitals all over Ireland, and these were delivered by the biking community.

### **These masks are made to the following guidelines:**

All masks use the standard pattern.

Masks have to be made from material that is 100% cotton. (It gives up to 60% protection.)

The use of material from sheets or pillowcases must be of a high thread count. (Lower thread counts only give up to 20% protection.)

The material for the masks must be new, pre-washed at 60 degrees, and not pre-used.

A double layer of material is used to allow insertion of a filter. (A sheet of kitchen roll is the simplest and effective.)

Material ties are preferable as elastic will not take repeated washing at high temperatures.

Two masks per person are supplied to allow for washing. Standard instructions on how to use a mask are provided:

- Wash hands before putting mask on
- Open folds so that mask covers nose and mouth

- Do not touch face when using mask or pull away from face to talk or eat
- Do not touch the mask when removing it. Remove the mask using the ties
- Place mask in plastic bag or straight in wash after single use
- Wash hands after removing.

I hope they are not needed, but safe and effective if we do!

Sharyn Williams

PS Editor's comment: Readers may like to know that the Hollywood Zipyard is planning to reopen on 1 July, and is a potential source of cotton face masks.

### **From the local History Group**

This being the June issue of Hollywood at Home, it was thought that someone who shared the same name as the month, might be appropriate - and that person was one of our active and popular members, June Mulligan. June will be celebrating her 90th Birthday at the end of the month and we take this opportunity of sending our best wishes from her friends in the U3A.

Here are some of June's recollections of growing up in Hollywood.

*I was born in Hollywood in 1930 and grew up in Spencer Street where I enjoyed an idyllic childhood. Memories of going on picnics and swimming in the sea at Kinnegar as well as roller-skating around the maypole - when the only car that passed belonged to the Town Clerk! As a girl-guide, I recall cooking meals in the Hollywood woods. Through guiding, I have an American pen-friend with whom I have corresponded for 78 years.*



*I remember Hollywood when all the shops were privately owned. All foodstuffs were not pre-packed. Sugar was weighed on scales and butter was sliced from a large slab and patted into shape. Large hams covered in gauze were suspended on hooks from the ceiling. In those days, Hollywood was a very small place. Everyone was very friendly. If we happened to be out alone, we behaved ourselves as someone was sure to see us and report any bad behaviour to our parents.*

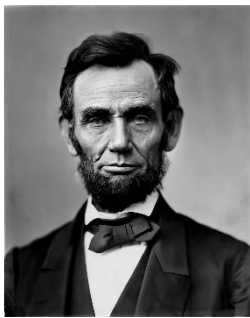
*After leaving the Parochial school, I attended a private school in Belfast. I had 5 shillings pocket money and thought I was wealthy! My Father paid my weekly train ticket which, I think cost 1 shilling and 9p (in old money). My first job was with the L.M.S. Railway. It was a wonderful employment company and all the bosses were gentlemen.*

*My social life revolved around the Church of Ireland Youth Guild. We met on Tuesday evenings but were involved in other activities through the week. We produced an annual play and had great fun at rehearsals. On a Saturday cycle picnic to Ballywalter, I met my future husband. Although not a member of the Guild, he had come along with a friend. We were married in Holywood Parish Church and eventually had two daughters, both of whom are now married and I have two grandsons.*

*Holywood has greatly changed over the years - but it is still a great place to live.'*

### **Miscellany of Humour and Quizzes Contributed by Holywood District U3A Members**

#### **Gardening Group Quiz**



Which of the following gardening quotes is attributed to Abraham Lincoln (Answer is below):

1. "Gardening and laughing are two of the best things in life you can do to promote good health and a sense of well-being"
2. "The best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant"
3. "God made rainy days so that gardeners could get housework done"
4. "Definition of bulb – Potential flower buried in autumn never to be seen again"
5. "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses"
6. "Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting"
7. "There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbour's"
8. "Plant and your spouse plants with you. Weed and you weed alone"
9. "What one needs in gardening is a cast-iron back with a hinge in it"
10. "You know that you're a serious gardener if you deadhead flowers in other people's gardens"

**..... and to end with a limerick:**

*'I'm sure that my weeds connive  
To ensure that most survive  
For despite my weeding  
And selective feeding  
It's the weeds that all seem to thrive.'*

Happy and joyful gardening to everyone.

## Good Food to Go

The Belfast Telegraph provides a list of the various eateries which are currently providing a takeaway and/or delivery service. It is always a treat to eat food that someone else has cooked for a change! It can be accessed by keying in *Belfast Telegraph Takeaway and Delivery*.

The link is <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/food-drink/restaurant-reviews/joris-minne/great-food-for-staying-at-home-restaurants-across-ni-offering-food-and-drink-for-delivery-and-collection-39148870.html>.

## Chris Hewitt's Brain-Teaser

- 1 What 7 letter word is a clue for 'If you eat it you will die' and 'Wealthy people need it'?
- 2 Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
- 3 Most vegetables must be replanted every year - name the only two perennial vegetables.
- 4 Only 3 (common) words in standard English begin with the letters 'Dw' Can you name them?
- 5 Pear brandy has a pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe and the bottle is genuine How did the pear get inside the bottle?
- 6 Name 10 things all beginning with the letter 'S' which may be worn on your feet.
- 7 Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked or in any other form except fresh?
- 8 What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
- 9 What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
- 10 There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar - how many can you name?



This fragrant rose is called *Rambling Rector* which seems a good introduction to the following!

## **The Importance of Proof-Reading**

Included in the online May edition of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* were the following sentences which had really appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- Weight watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00pm – prayer and medication to follow.
- A bean supper will be held in Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use back door.

## **Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody**

Once upon a time, there were four people.

Their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody.

Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realised that Nobody would do it.

So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

(Anon)

## **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:

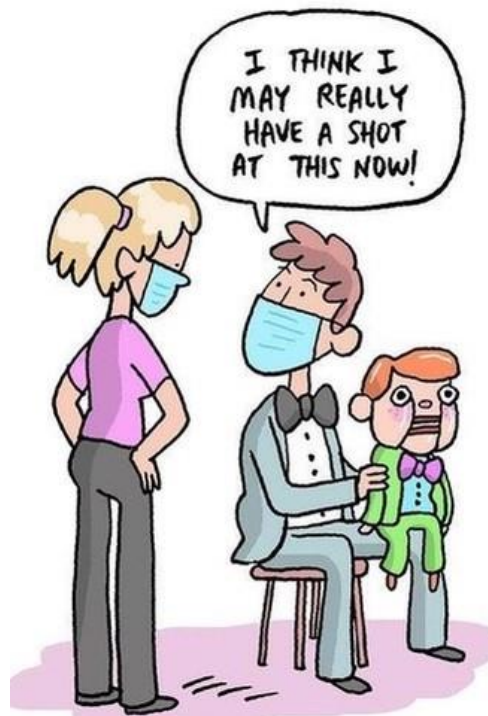
*"After much deliberation the judges decided that the joint winners of the Best Cook competition were:*

*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."*

**Answer to the Abraham Lincoln gardening quiz – Quote No. 5**



**Answers to Chris Hewitt's Brain-Teaser:**

- 1 'Nothing'
- 2 The sport of Boxing
- 3 Asparagus and Rhubarb
- 4 Dwarf, Dwell and Dwindle
- 5 The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small and wired to the tree for the entire growing season When they are grown the stem is snipped and the bottle sealed
- 6 Shoes Sandals Sneakers Slippers Socks Stockings Skis Skates Snowshoes Stilts
- 7 The Lettuce
- 8 Niagara Falls (The rim is worn back about a metre every year due to millions of gallons of water pouring over it every second)
- 9 The Strawberry
- 10 Full-stop Comma Colon Semi-colon Dash Hyphen Apostrophe Question mark Exclamation mark Quotation mark Brackets Parenthesis Brackets and Elipses.

