

## ***Hollywood at Home, Issue 6 (20 July)***

### **Welcome to Hollywood at Home from your Chairperson**

I trust you are all well and getting used to our constantly changing guidelines re Covid. It is still impossible to predict what will be possible over the coming months. We will just have to wait and see.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this month's Magazine, another excellent range of articles for us to enjoy. To Robin and Rosemary... thank you.

The Committee will continue to meet to assess our future possibilities - both indoors and outdoors - for when we can meet again.

Hopefully the sunshine will return soon...  
Best Wishes,  
Liz

PS I am just wondering about the origin of the poem on the next page .... was it written by a Committee member??

### **Gardening Group - Practical Tips**



- When space is at a minimum - Use deep guttering fixed to wall to plant out decorative or edible plants – see photo. Suits 'cut and come again lettuce', herbs, etc. Plant them early so they can establish better horizontal root growth.
- Potting up plants (inside/outside) - After putting crocks etc at the base put a piece of kitchen paper over the crocks, folding in four if necessary, before adding the compost. It stops the compost being washed out through the drainage hole.
- For foxgloves, remove the main (King) spire. This allows the smaller (Prince) spires to grow better and will prolong flowering.
- Dwarf dianthus are good for putting in a window box near your door so that you can smell them as you pass, but keep dead heading through the season.

- 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. It will not re-grow if you cut into the brown wood - always prune to outward facing bud or leaf joint.
- Cut back Hydrangea Paniculata by one third each year and blooms will remain showy. Cut back perennials after flowering and you may be rewarded by late flowering.
- Bulb planting - When planting new tulip and daffodil bulbs last autumn I placed a piece of thin plastic netting over them, just below ground level to deter squirrels, birds and mice from digging them up. It works!

### **I'm on a Committee:**

(Since the last Issue showed your Holywood U3A Committee hard at work on Zoom, we thought we should reveal what actually happens when we meet! This came from one of our members.)

*Oh give me your pity I'm on a committee  
Which means that both morning and night  
We attend and amend and contend and defend  
Without a conclusion in sight.*

*We confer and concur, we defer and demur  
And re-iterate all of our thoughts  
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda  
And consider a host of reports.*

*We compose and propose, we support and oppose  
And the points of procedure are fun!  
But though various notions are brought up as motions  
There's terribly little gets done.*

*We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve  
Since it's out of the question for us  
What a shattering pity to end our committee  
Where else could we make such a fuss?*

### **Volunteers needed in Health Research**

1. The Centre for Public Health in partnership with Queens University are carrying out a dietary study and need volunteers who are aged 45 years and over, and who are either overweight, smoke, have high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the researcher - [sarah.brennan@qub.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.brennan@qub.ac.uk)
2. The Macular Society in partnership with the Ulster University need volunteers who are aged 55 - 90 years and who are affected by age-related macular degeneration, and other volunteers as healthy controls. The study will investigate the use of spots of light scaled to reflect the changes that occur in the visual system caused by AMD, compared with current visual field tests. Anyone interested in taking part in this study should contact the researcher - [hunter-a11@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:hunter-a11@ulster.ac.uk)

## Brian Bilston

In October, 2016, I took part in the National Poetry Day organised and held at the Hollywood Library. Not being a poet myself, I needed to research poems short enough to include in a reading, preferably on topical themes on current affairs and easily read by the audience on a projected screen. After much research, I stumbled across the perfect choice: Brian Bilston, the so-called poet laureate of Twitter, or the Banksy of Twitter. Below is *Refugees*, one of his poems that I had showcased that day, and one I had not, *A Brief History of Modern Art in Poetry*.

After the reading, Jo Quinn, the head librarian, made a copy of 'Refugees' and displayed it in a plastic stand. I think it is still there somewhere in the library and has proven popular with visitors. (Many have asked for a copy to be made to take home with them.) If you enjoy Bilston's work, you can follow him on Twitter (@brian\_bilston); visit his website ([brianbilston.com](http://brianbilston.com)); or purchase his published works online or in bookshops. Enjoy!

Denise Dichard-Head

## Refugees

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

## **A Brief History of Modern Art in Poetry**

### **1. Impressionism**

Roses sway in softened reds  
Violets swim in murky blues.  
Sugar sparkles in the light,  
Blurring into golden you.

### **2. Surrealism**

Roses are melting  
Violets are too.  
Ceci n'est pas le sucre.  
Keith is a giant crab.

### **3. Social Realism**

Roses are dead.  
Violence is rife.  
Don't sugar coat  
This bitter life.

### **4. Abstract Expressionism**



### **5. Pop Art**

Roses go BLAM!  
Violets go POW!  
Sugar is COOL!  
You are so WOW!

### **6. Conceptual Art**

Roses are red,  
Coated in blood:  
A deer's severed head  
Drips from above.

## **Jessie Getty**

We thought we would feature another local health practitioner, whose life was included in our U3A's *Hollywood People* book.

Jessica Getty was born in March 1894. Holding strong Unionist beliefs, in September 1912 she signed the Ulster Covenant Women's Declaration against Home Rule in Belfast City Hall.

In 1914 when a call was made for volunteers to nurse the wounded soldiers in Europe – Jessie joined as a Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurse (VAD). She worked in Wimereux Base Hospital in Northern France.

She spoke of an incident that happened late one evening when one of her patients gestured over to her. He had something to give her. It was his rosary beads which he handed over. Sadly this young man was dead before dawn. Jessie never forgot the young soldier and his rosary beads were one of her most treasured possessions until her death.



Jessie was awarded the Red Cross Medal 1914-18 for her service during the Great War. On returning home, she went to work in the military hospital in Belfast. She took lodgings in Belfast in the same house as a young Army officer who had served with the Royal Irish Rifles. He had been badly wounded by a shell and a fellow officer lifted a handful of 'glar' (mud) from the bottom of the trench and put it on his forehead to try to stop the bleeding. This probably saved his life and a short time later he was picked up by stretcher bearers and taken to hospital.

This young officer became Jessie's husband – he then trained to become a solicitor. Initially employed in Belfast, later he worked for Holywood Urban Council until his death in 1976. Since being injured in the War he occasionally had small pieces of shrapnel coming out of his body. Jessie put many of them into matchboxes. When he died, she buried the pieces of shrapnel with him!

Jessie became Northern Ireland's 'most senior citizen', dying three months before her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday, in December 2001.

Her photographs and wartime memorabilia are now proudly displayed in the Somme Heritage Museum.

### **Here are some Gardening Anagrams to solve**

Clue – they are all plants, trees, pests or garden tools.

- 1) FERNY GEL
- 2) LITERAL CARP
- 3) AS NIL
- 4) HI PAD
- 5) OR WELT
- 6) TRUE CASES
- 7) HEAR LOW BREW
- 8) RASHES
- 9) VOGELS
- 10) MAY CORES
- 11) SUPERC
- 12) DRELA
- 13) UP AS CUTELY
- 14) SPYCRES
- 15) ILPUT
- 16) MEGA RUIN
- 17) CANNOT AIR
- 18) AS PETITION
- 19) PARDON NAGS
- 20) SWORN FUEL

## Apt Sayings

- *My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.*
- *Forget health food. I'm at the age where I need all the preservatives I can get.*
- *You don't stop having fun when you grow old. You grow old when you stop having fun.*
- *Grandchildren are the reward for not killing your own children.*
- *Women are like teabags; you never know how strong they are until they're put in hot water.*

(NB The last is attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt – don't shoot the messenger/editor, if it's not PC!)

## Gardening Anagrams Answers

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. GREENFLY    | 11. SPRUCE     |
| 2. CATERPILLAR | 12. ALDER      |
| 3. SNAIL       | 13. EUCALYPTUS |
| 4. APHID       | 14. CYPRESS    |
| 5. TROWEL      | 15. TULIP      |
| 6. SECATEURS   | 16. GERANIUM   |
| 7. WHEELBARROW | 17. CARNATION  |
| 8. SHEARS      | 18. POINSETTIA |
| 9. GLOVES      | 19. SNAPDRAGON |
| 10. SYCAMORE   | 20. SUNFLOWER  |

