

# Hollywood at Home Issue 9 of 20 October

## Chairperson's Letter

Welcome to the 9th Issue of Hollywood at Home, another entertaining edition of the magazine for U3A members to enjoy this month.

Thanks to everyone who has given of their time and energy to produce the articles. We are always delighted to receive any articles, poems, local stories, helpful information, jokes, quotes, snippets, etc.

The Executive Committee is currently working on tying our communications and Zoom together to commence our virtual talks, as this will be our foreseeable future.

Best Wishes and Keep Safe over the next challenging month,

Liz

## Membership Secretary's Update

Thanks again to yet more members who have renewed their subscriptions. Once again, there is an open invitation to check with me at [membership@hollywoodu3a.org](mailto:membership@hollywoodu3a.org) if you are not sure if you have paid this year. We know that it has been a disrupted year and it is hard to keep track of things, it is still a great opportunity to extend your membership right through to 31 March 2022.

**PS** The **History Group** Convenor adds we are trying, in the U3A, to explore options for virtual meetings and talks. The History Group will host a zoom Talk by Robin Masefield on '*An Ulsterman in 19<sup>th</sup> Century China*', on Wednesday 4 November at 10.30am. As an experiment it will be open to any Hollywood District U3A member to join. If you would like to have the link to listen to the Talk, please email [secretary@hollywoodu3a.org](mailto:secretary@hollywoodu3a.org).

## ZOOM

My name is Zoom - your virtual friend.  
The one in which you have come to depend.  
Bringing U3A Committees together,  
whatever the day and whatever the weather.  
Making future plans for all its members  
to meet away from their cosy fenders.

So until then, gather round and join with your friends  
from here and there and to journey's end.  
Remember you can support and care  
until the time comes when you can all share

in a meeting 'the way it used to be'  
over coffee with friends so good to see.

Continue to Zoom and I will do my best  
until we have put this pandemic to rest.

(Written by a member of the U3A Local History Group.)

## **Gardening Group – Some Tips for Autumn Bulb Planting**

### **ALLIUMS**

**Position** – Full sun in well-drained soil. For heavy soils add grit. The A. Tripedale variety can take some shade and self-sows freely so take care where you plant it.

**Planting** – In general plant bulbs twice their own depth with a gap of three times the bulb width between them. Depending on size:-

- (i) Small and middle-sized alliums are best planted in groups in generous drifts. Space bulbs 10-20cm (4-8ins) apart depending on their size.
- (ii) Larger varieties can be planted in groups or individually at depth of 15cm (6ins) but need more space for their larger heads so allow at least 20-30cm (8-12ins) between them.
- (iii) The two giants, A. Globemaster and A. Schubertii, need spacing of 30-45cm (12-18ins).



### **CROCUS**



**Position** – Full sun or partial shade in almost any soil – gritty, poor to moderately fertile or in grass.

**Planting** – Plant 10cm (4in) deep to deter mice from digging them up. Have spent compost or a fresh bag of multipurpose compost (add 50% grit if heavy soil) to hand. Punch 20 or 30 holes (saving the soil plugs to cover over later) and use half an inch of the compost in the bottom of the hole. Place an individual crocus on top and then another half an inch of compost. Break a little soil off the bottom of the soil plug so it will sink to the

right level and place it over the bulb.

**In pots** – Have the bulbs almost touching. Once in flower it is essential to keep them cool or they will go over in 4-5 days. Kept cool, you should triple this flower life, so put them on the doorstep outside.

## **TULIPS**

**Position** - Full sun in well-drained soil.

**Planting** – Deeper than other bulbs – trenches or holes up to 20cm (8ins) deep. Deeper planting means you won't need to stake and also means that your bulbs are more likely to flower year after year. Oct/Nov planting is recommended as they don't start putting down roots until then and the cold temperatures help to wipe out viral and fungal diseases that lurk in the soil which may infect the bulbs.

If soil is heavy, dig a trench/hole and cover the base with 5cm (2ins) of washed sharp sand, horticultural grit or spent compost. Add a handful of bone meal and mix it into the soil and grit at the base of the hole.

Place the tulip bulbs pointy end up, about 8cm (3ins) apart and cover with soil (for heavy soil – 2/3rds soil and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> grit).



**In pots** – For layering bulbs you need to plant the bulbs slightly further apart than you would in a pot with a single layer so 2-3cm (1-1 1/2in) apart is about right. The first layer can go as deep as 28-30cm (11-12in) so long as you have 5cm (2in) potting compost before you place the next layer of bulbs.

**Feeding** – A slow release fertiliser (pellets or manure) placed on top of the soil (not placed directly in the hole). Do not use a liquid feed in autumn as the nutrients will just be washed away.

### **Bulb Lasagne - a recipe from the Gardening Group**

This recipe allows you to get the maximum out of a pot. By layering the bulbs, you can grow great combinations of bulbs in the one pot or have a succession of bulbs that commence flowering in February and continue through to May.

1. Place a layer of potting compost and horticultural grit in the bottom of the container - three-quarters compost to one-quarter grit is recommended.
2. Put the largest and latest-flowering bulbs at the bottom layer e.g. alliums and tulips. Don't pack them in too tightly – give them an inch or two to themselves. This first layer can go as deep as 11-12 inches.
3. Cover with a layer of compost using a couple of inches of the compost/grit mixture.

4. Plant the next layer of bulbs which will flower before the previous layer e.g. daffodils.
5. Again cover with a layer of compost/grit.
6. For a 3<sup>rd</sup> layer, use smaller earlier-flowering bulbs such as dwarf daffodils, iris reticulata, crocuses or hyacinths.
7. Final layer of potting compost together with a top layer of horticultural grit.

Don't worry about planting bulbs straight on top of each other. The emergent shoots of the lower layer bulbs just bend round anything they hit sitting over their heads and keep on growing.

Layering bulbs this way is really easy to do and will give you a lovely display throughout the winter months for very little effort.

Happy planting.

## Hollywood – Now and before!

Members of our History Group have been inspired by the U3A survey which has been taken of the Shops and Services in Hollywood High Street (see H@H Issue 8).



They now want to expand this survey to the rest of the town and to hear from people who can help us find out about the types of businesses and services which previously operated in our town. For example this photo shows how the High Street has changed significantly.

Do you have any old photos or stories about the life and businesses of people living in Hollywood? Did you have a favourite shop you loved going

to, as a child?

It may be helpful to look at [www.facebook.com/ I grew up in Hollywood](https://www.facebook.com/IgrewupinHollywood) to stimulate your memories.

We look forward to hearing from you at [secretary@hollywoodu3a.org](mailto:secretary@hollywoodu3a.org) or Tel 02890 426825.

## Hollywood – Our Town

*D'ye mind the far end of the High Street  
That old shop with the step at the door  
The shiny brass latch and the counter  
The worn wooden planks for a floor.*



*Tommy Bell's stood there close to the Maypole,  
The bicycle shop and the Bar  
McClelland's, McCleave's and McKenna's  
The Bottom House wasn't too far.*

*The Top House with the wee shop beside it  
And Jefferson's near Patton's Lane  
The shop that sold paint and paper  
Now what did you call it again?*

*And what was the name of the fruit shop  
That stood just by Sullivan Street?  
In Hibernia Street was the cobbler  
Boyd's Shop in Church View was so neat.*

*Remember the Willowpark Dairy?  
And Ferguson's old hardware store ?  
Orr's Chemist, and Ballagh's and Balmer's  
And Sheridan's library and more.*

*Miss Barr's where you stepped down for shopping  
Miss Trainor's haberdashery place  
Claude Hemfrey's and Allen's the Chemist?  
It's not quite the same now at Mace!*

*You could go down the Strand to Bath Terrace  
Or by Conaty's Arch to the tide  
The path brought you out down at Seapark  
With the mountains across the far side*

*Or along by the Priory you'd wander  
Where Milligan's nursery lay  
Past greenhouse and graveyard to dander  
To Miss Praeger's field where you'd play.*

*From the Kinnegar come through the station  
And echo down under the track  
Past Mollie's kiosk in the corner  
How clearly it all comes back.*

*There was Matchett's and Stratfords's and Kingan's  
And Reid's at the top of the town  
There was Fahy's and Rogan's and Aiken's  
The Post Office further on down.*

*Our High Street has changed beyond reason  
For garages we once had three  
Meneely's close by Jimpy Lennox  
And Innis's and Cowan's you see.*

*Despite all the changes we've witnessed  
Despite all the up-to-date trends  
We're still very glad we belong here  
Among those we value as friends.*

Poet unknown

## A United Celebration of Columbanus

by Alderman Deborah Girvan Chairperson of Friends of Columbanus

(Robin Masfield writes: *Members of our History Group may remember Cllr James McKerrow giving a talk on St Columbanus (and other Bangor saints). I have been a member of the Friends of Columbanus for some years and asked Alderman Deborah Girvan to be kind enough to write a piece for Holywood at Home.*)

The annual Columbanus Festival, which was due to take place in Bangor during the weekend of 13-15 November, has had to be revised due to Covid-19 restrictions. Instead of a series of events, walks, talks and workshops, the Events Committee of Friends of Columbanus Bangor, has organised a virtual, cross-community ecumenical service entitled '**A United Celebration of Columbanus**'. The service has been pre-recorded beforehand and will be posted up onto the Columbanus Northern Ireland YouTube Channel on Sunday 15 November at 7.00pm.



Sermons will be delivered by Rev Simon Doogan of St Columbanus Church of Ireland, Ballyholme; Father Joe Gunn of St Comgall's Catholic Church, Brunswick Road; Rev David Stanfield of First Bangor Presbyterian Church; and Rev Mandy Durrell representing Ballyholme and Christ Church Primary Methodist churches. In addition, there will be readings from

respective church members and St Columbanus College, plus beautiful music and hymns performed by local and European choirs and musicians.

Alderman Deborah Girvan said:

*'It was so disappointing to change our plans due to the coronavirus pandemic. I hope that local folk will tune into the service on YouTube, along with our European friends who are working hard to develop the Columban Way. If you can't view the **United Celebration of Columbanus** on Sunday 15 November at 7.00pm, you can view it at your leisure at a time to suit you.'*

*The Columban Way is a European pilgrim route that traces the footsteps of Columbanus through eight European countries from Myshall in Ireland where he was born in 543AD, via Bangor, to Bobbio in Italy where he died in 615AD. For the past couple of years, I have been working with colleagues in France, Switzerland, Italy and the Republic of Ireland to develop this ambitious project, which has the potential to bring many European visitors and tourists to Bangor.*

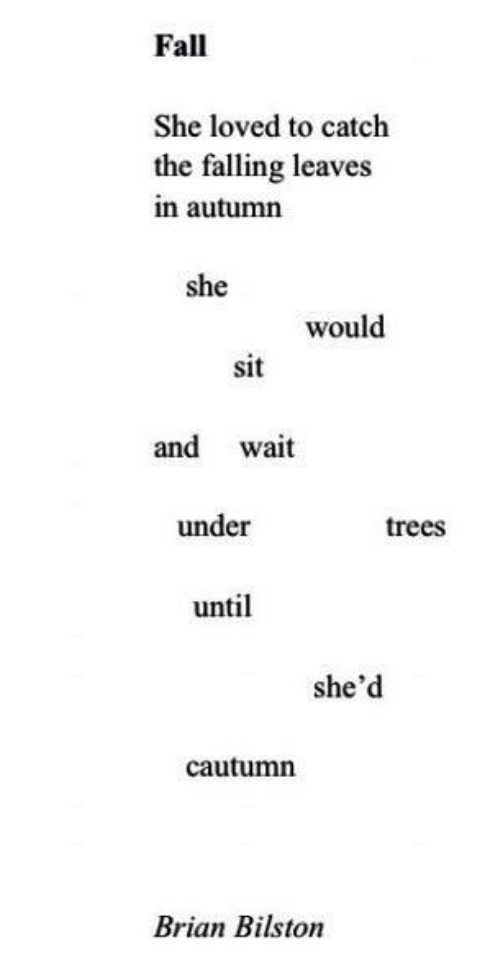
Friends of Columbanus Bangor are looking for new members to join the Association. If you are interested in keeping the legacy of Columbanus alive in Bangor and beyond, please call Deborah Girvan on 07872 857 912 or email [deborah.girvan@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.girvan@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk).

## Plant People Quiz

Can you match each description to the plant-related first name of the real or fictional person it describes? Answers are on the last page.

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Celebrity chef and writer, daughter of a former chancellor              | Fern    |
| 2. British novelist and philosopher who wrote <i>Under the Net</i>         | Daisy   |
| 3. Companion of the Ninth Doctor in <i>Doctor Who</i>                      | Ginger  |
| 4. Dancer and singer who did everything 'backwards in high heels'          | Rowan   |
| 5. Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012                              | Iris    |
| 6. Gatsby's love in <i>The Great Gatsby</i>                                | Basil   |
| 7. Gum-chewing <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> character          | Lily    |
| 8. Harry Potter's mother   | Nigella |
| 9. Strictly Come Dancing participant and ex- <i>This Morning</i> presenter | Rose    |
| 10. The eponymous protagonist of Fawlty Towers                             | Violet  |

Denise has kindly sent in another **poem** by **Brian Bilston**. This one is both visual and particularly topical.



EXPLORING THE FACTORS INFLUENCING COPING  
DURING LOCKDOWN FOR OLDER ADULTS

Are you

- aged 60 or over?
- living in Northern Ireland?

Researchers at Queen's University, Belfast would like to speak to you about **your experiences of covid-19**. This involves a one to one interview by phone or video.



If you are interested in taking part or finding out more please contact us on

**amelaughmcateer01@qub.ac.uk**  
**07857208414**

## A New Pastime

Fed up watching boring programmes on TV?  
Just switch on the subtitles. They are an endless source of amusement.  
Working out what actually was said will provoke many a hearty laugh.

Here are three recent examples from local TV programmes.

1. 'The former **teashop** Leo Varadker said....'  
[Reminder: Taoiseach is pronounced Tee-shoch in Irish]
2. This one occurred during Question Time at the House of Commons:  
'Does the Prime Minister agree with me that it will be of no comfort to the parents of a **portly** child that they are unable to book a Covid19 test for that child?'
3. These subtitles were seen during a programme describing a conservation project:  
'We will **recede** the banks of the river with flowers and plants'.



## Pastime Postscript

Apologies to all those hard working subtitlers who provide such a valuable service to all those of us with hearing difficulties, especially when loud background music accompany many programmes nowadays. Subtitling is a difficult and sometimes perilous occupation. Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf.

## The Borough Council's Big Conversation Covid Survey



U3A Members may like to participate in the Ards and North Down Borough Council's '*Big Conversation Survey*' which ends next week, 31 October.

This is part of the Council's Community Planning effort which is a worthy exercise. Its officers recognise that it has been a difficult and challenging time and want to hear views on how COVID-19 has affected residents in the Borough.

The survey is available either online or in hard copy:

Online: please click : [Survey one](#) or go to <https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations>

Hard copy: A hard copy of the survey can be posted to your home with a free post return envelope. To request a hard copy please email [lisa.wilsdon@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.wilsdon@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk) or call 0300 013 3333. An easy read version of the survey is also available.

## Answers to the Plant People Quiz

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Celebrity chef and writer, daughter of a former chancellor            | Nigella (Lawson)     |
| 2. British novelist and philosopher who wrote <i>Under the Net</i>       | Iris (Murdoch)       |
| 3. Companion of the Ninth Doctor in <i>Doctor Who</i>                    | Rose (Tyler)         |
| 4. Dancer and singer who did everything 'backwards in high heels'        | Ginger (Rogers)      |
| 5. Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012                            | Rowan (Williams)     |
| 6. Gatsby's love in <i>The Great Gatsby</i>                              | Daisy (Buchanan)     |
| 7. Gum-chewing <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> character        | Violet (Beauregarde) |
| 8. Harry Potter's mother   | Lily (Potter)        |
| 9. Strictly Come Dancing participant & ex- <i>This Morning</i> presenter | Fern (Britton)       |
| 10. The eponymous protagonist of Fawlty Towers                           | Basil (Fawlty)       |

## And Finally

*Especially for English Language Lovers.. Can any one tell the difference between 'Completed' and 'Finished'? No dictionary has ever been able to define the difference between 'Complete' and 'Finished.' However, in a linguistic conference, held in London England, Sun Sherman an Indian American, was the clever winner. His final challenge was this. His response was: **When you marry the right woman, you are 'Complete.' If you marry the wrong woman, you are 'Finished.'** And , when the right woman catches you with the wrong woman, you are **'Completely Finished.!' His answer received a five minute standing ovation.***