EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

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EPSOM & EWELL TIMES

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Poets Corner, Vol.1: Audrey Arden-Jones

24 March 2022

By local poets, for local poets and everyone

In collaboration with Epsom Hospital Radio we present poets' corner.

We are indebted to celebrated Epsom poet Audrey Ardern-Jones who has agreed to moderate this feature of our service.

You are invited to submit your poems for Audrey to read and publish those she selects. Every year we will have a readers' poems competition. The website will also carry audio files of the poems read by Audrey or the poet. If you wish to submit a poem please see our "Pitch an article" form under the "contact" tab.

Tattenham Corner
(For Emily Wilding Davison)

We may cross over a well turned track
turn back more than a hundred years
on Derby Day

spot a young woman in her prime
who was imprisoned, force fed
who spoke out, broke out
shouted out

who on that day, slipped under the railings
into an incoming storm
of horses
galloping round the curve
into the long final straightness

a moment of history
she braved it
stood like a beacon – there for you
there for me

with her iconic message
Votes for Women
her last
to a King who should have listened
then she stumbled
under his horse

she never spoke again
never smiled again
never again smelt the freshness of rain
nor heard the June birdsong
outside her window at the Cottage Hospital

a much maligned heroine of her time
a heroine of our time
a voice that lives on

a voice not just for women

by Audrey Ardern-Jones

About Audrey

Audrey Ardern-Jones is a lifelong promoter and lover of poetry. She's lived in Epsom for fifty years and in 1984 founded The Poetry & Music Ensemble – a group of international musicians and herself a performer of poetry.

Audrey's poetry is widely published in anthologies and journals. Last year in June Audrey read her poem 'Tattenham Corner' at the special event unveiling the statue of Emily Wilding Davison in the Epsom Market Square. In October 2021 she read poetry and ran an art/poetry workshop for Epsom's 'Love me, Love my Mind' week. Audrey runs a regular 'Poets Corner' for the Hub – an online organisation linked with Epsom Hospital's radio – here she reads her favourite poets by famous poets.

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