

Headliners

You're a demographic time-bomb
or so the tabloids say.
You leach the public purse of cash
praise anachronistic trash
rarely seem to cut a dash
unless you're Mister Jagger.
Let's straighten out their twisted text
show the world what to expect.
Ordinary movers, shakers
paso doble on-the-makers,
walkers, writers, carers who
the NHS could never do without.
So don't forget to swagger, shout.
U3A for stirring intellect
giving Art and Craft respect
sharing knowledge, skills,
achievement, not afraid
to talk bereavement
sex and loneliness and things.
The same preoccupations
Facebook brings to younger minds.
They naturally lack the years behind
to temper life in all its phases.
That's why grannies aren't invasive.
They know when to listen well,
give a hug, advice or tell their stories
just the same for life is patterned on a grain
of complicated parts that touch our minds,
our spirits. Hearts. The pivot point
for humankind male and female,
sighted, blind, older, youthful, strong
or weak, at any stage life can be bleak.
But get your facts in order Press.
Your tabloid ravings don't impress
the readers of reality. We see
the active elders day by day,
capable in every individual way.
Often finding new expression,
talents aired as far as they can try.
Catching rainbows. Reaching for the sky.



Anne Connolly 2015 (Written specially for SOPA)

Swingummy Jig

Splash into River Dance
toe point, tip-tap,
whirly birly jig-jig
rattle-tattle bones
all shimmy to the thrum-thrum
waggle bum rhythm drum.
Kilt pleats swagger swing-swing
and his scian dubh dagger
makes a half-dab laggard
do a slip-trip-double-flip
circus clowny fling
while the hold-hands ring
of the ceilidhe springs
high click-kick feet
till the fiddle-diddle bow
poco meno moso
slinks the pace down slow
and we all stagger off dead beat.

Anne Connolly from her Pamphlet
“Downside Up” Calder Wood Press

