

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL
Ivry, Lady Freyberg

CONGRATULATIONS MA'AM!

July 2016

Like millions of others the Trust sends warmest congratulations to Her Majesty upon her 90th birthday.

We learned from an article in The Sunday Telegraph by **Charlotte Runcie** (#6079 on the family tree) that Carol Ann Duffy, the poet laureate had announced that she would not be writing a poem to mark the occasion. Consequently this Sunday paper ran a competition for readers to submit their own poems. The response was overwhelming, and a winner and 5 'highly commended' were chosen. We reproduce below the winning entry entitled *Monday Morning ER* by Jenny Land but before doing so we want to quote the last 2 or 3 lines from two of those 'highly commended'.

Francis Phillips closed his poem *The Coronation* with:

*My secret wish, which lasted many years:
To join those rolling ranks of grenadiers.*

The last four lines of Jackie Wilkin's poem, *The Royal Lines of England* were:

*Bloodlines, chance and temperament
All meet in Queen and steed:
But on this 90th birthday, Ma'am,
Stamina trumps speed.*

Charming and apposite don't you think?

*Monday Morning: ER
Forget the ermine, the polish and shine-
there she is as ever in sensible tweed,
resolutely pushing out of mind her restless horses,
the four corgis that need a tromp along
the burn through new June leaves-
you'd think more than six decades on
the ministers could revise their policies,
the officers dispatch each combat plane-
yet here we are living our arrowed days
through urban sprawl, through e-updates and floods,
knowing somewhere in a quiet room
we dreamed about in bookish childhood
the red box clicks open: our world resumes
afresh, anchored by that blue eyed gaze.*



The Queen at 90