

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Winds

**“Charity, dear Miss Prism, charity! None of us are perfect.  
I myself am peculiarly susceptible to draughts.”**

*Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest*

Unlike Canon Chasuble in Oscar Wilde's drama, I am not susceptible to draughts, peculiarly or otherwise. But I *am* affected by winds.

Hearing-aids are important to me. When I wore them for the first time, I could hear birdsong *incredibly* loudly. But there's a down-side. Even the slightest wind causes them to "rattle", sometimes so noisily I can't hear much else. That's why Outside Broadcast TV microphones often have a "fuzzy" cover when it's windy. I don't have fuzzy covers for my hearing-aids. So I turn them off when it's windy and hear very little.

There's a rattling wind blowing today and there's no fuzzy cover to stop it happening. It's disturbing and debilitating, and it can blank out everything. So, we have a choice. We can switch off and hear nothing at all. Or we can learn to deal with its effects. The wind isn't going away.

The late Hamish Henderson in his Broad Scots anthem says this:

*Roch the wind in the clear day dawnin',  
Blaws the clouds heelster-gowdie o'er the bay.  
But there's mair nor a roch wind blawin'  
Through the great glen o' the warld the day.*

*Roch* is rough; *blaw* is blow; *clouds* is clouds; *heelster-gowdie* is head-over-heels; *mair* is more. There's a rough wind blowing for us, just as there was for Henderson at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But it's *more* than a rough wind. It's a wind of dramatic change. Nothing will be the same after this storm. When the wind drops, our world will be transformed. So I could switch off my hearing-aids to block out the rough rattle, or try to reduce the wind to a gentle draught. Or I could learn to live with it and look to dealing with the changes it brings in the "great glen" of my world. Might I be "peculiarly susceptible" to that?

### **A prayer for today**

*Lord, the wind of the Spirit comes from you. Let it change us as it must. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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