

'INDOMITABLE':  
Gerry Molumby as  
James Joyce

Picture: Deirdre O'Byrne



# Northampton Bloomsday

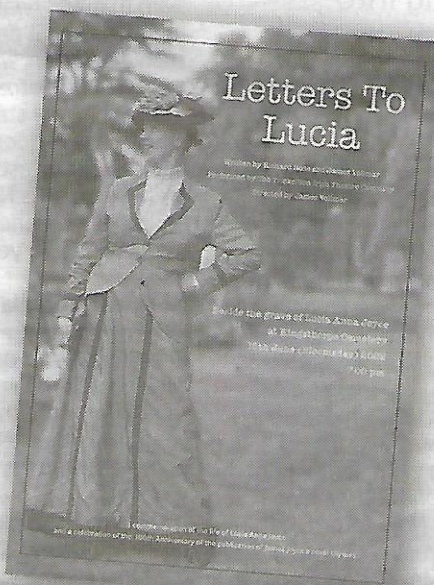
Bloomsday, June 16, will be marked across the world to celebrate one of the great works of literature: *Ulysses*

**J**OYCE aficionados are gearing up for Bloomsday everywhere from Dublin, James Joyce's birthplace, to Zurich, Joyce's last resting place. Further afield, in fact everywhere across the world this landmark in literature will be celebrated - and Northampton is no exception.

June 16 is the day in 1904 - according to the novel *Ulysses* - when Leopold Bloom, a Jewish salesman, wanders round Dublin, capturing a day in the life of the city's more marginalised citizens. He befriends young artist Stephen Dedalus on the way, and during their odyssey they deal with many of life's imponderables by: witnessing a funeral, stopping in at Davy Byrne's pub, and visiting a maternity hospital - to name only a few of their excursions. The text is replete with stream of consciousness, puns, parodies, and allusions, and is today regarded as one of the greatest literary works in history.

Joyce had one daughter, Lucia Anna Joyce who lived and died in Northampton. Every year on Bloomsday, her grave in

Kingsthorpe Cemetery is the focus for Joycean scholars and fans to gather and pay tribute to her life, as well as to share readings from her father's work.



Celebrants and attendees over the years have included biographer Gordon Bowker, Sean Cannon from the Dubliners, representatives of the Irish Embassy in London and members of the Triskellion Irish Theatre Company, based in Nottingham.

Triskellion's indomitable Gerry Molumby is one of the main instigators and organisers of the event.

In 2018, local writers Richard Rose and James Vollmar decided to enhance the usual readings with a short play entitled *Letters to Lucia*.

The drama is focused on fictional correspondence to Lucia from key personalities who knew her, including her father and mother, Samuel Beckett, and Kathleen Neel who had performed with Lucia in a Paris dance troupe. Frank Budgen, artist and writer and close confidante of the Joyce family, is portrayed as narrator in the drama.

Members of Triskellion Irish Theatre Company perform the play in costume.

■ This year the play begins at 7pm at Kingsthorpe Cemetery. The event is free.