

Hartwell:

Yes, yes. (*Clearing his throat*). Betty and I would like to thank all of you Ancient Acorns for joining us today on our mission to the Blotchley Leisure and Art Centre. As you know, Betty has worked tirelessly to have her, ah, still lifes exhibited here, without success....

Betty:

Until today, dear....

Hartwell:

Yes, yes... and without any satisfactory explanation as to why they were turned down. With your enthusiastic support as pillars (*reaches out to a pillar to steady himself*), and tax-payers, of Blotchley district, we hope to obtain a fair hearing, or at least, a satisfactory, that is....

Betty:

What Hartwell means to say, is that today we shall overcome this perversion of justice. (*A few claps*). We shall storm this bastille of contemporary art, with all of its self-indulgent, inscrutable installations, and install ourselves until the powers that be can no longer refuse us. We're not too old to matter!

*(More clapping. Spontaneous eruption into song: "Forward old age pensioners, Fighting for their rights" to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers." Betty gets Hartwell to fetch a set of steps so that she can be better seen and heard by those assembled).*

James:

Hear, hear!

Sylvia:

*(Flirtatiously)*. I didn't realize you were a patron of the arts, James.

James:

What's that Sylvia? Oh, well, I just think the old girl's got spunk. All power to her I say. And yes, I do have a collection of car adverts from the good old days when I flogged motors for a living.

Sylvia:

Car advertisements? Your collection wouldn't have anything to do with the bikini-clad women they used to drape all over cars back in the good old days, would it?

James:

Good gracious, Sylvia, what do you take me for? No, no, the ads have considerable artistic merit.

Sylvia:

Unhuh. Artistic merit. Maybe you could show them to me sometime. And do you think that Betty's work has artistic merit? Sometimes I wonder about her. She seems to be losing her sense of balance, her forward momentum.

James:

What makes you say that? Her wheels may have spun sideways in the muck once or twice, but she's never lacked an overdrive. Have you ever seen her paintings?

Sylvia:

Not her most recent ones.

James:

Magnificently revealing...of the human condition.