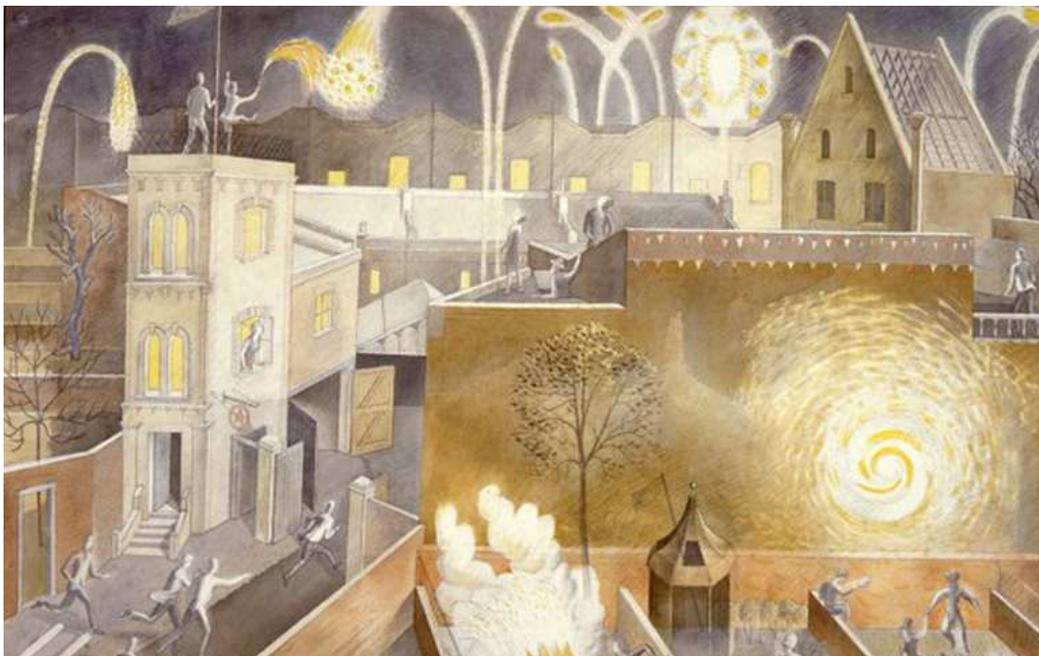




## COME SINGING NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER!

Dear Everyone,

Yesterday there was a lovely crispy morning, brilliant blue skies and autumn colours, and in the evening fireworks again in the back gardens nearby - Bonfire night seems to have been going on all week! It's been such a strange year that people probably need to let off steam: there's been lots of noise and the lovely smell of wood smoke, but I don't imagine there will be such goings-on this year as in this lovely picture by Eric Ravilious...



Pat sent these memories of bonfire nights gone by:

## MEMORIES OF NOVEMBER THE FIFTH

“Remember, remember the fifth of  
November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
I see no reason  
Why gunpowder season  
Should ever be forgot!”

“Penny for the Guy!”  
“Light the blue touch paper and  
retire!”



Watch a Catherine wheel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfoN4S6NBpg>

Roman candles : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHyKBqNeRwo>

Fountain fireworks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1fzECxbGNc>

Enjoy: Handel Firework music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuG1t2smdCQ>

In my childhood in the 1950s there were no organised bonfire or firework displays. Instead, to celebrate November 5<sup>th</sup> small groups of family and friends gathered in gardens where fathers would organise the lighting of the fireworks. If you were lucky you might have a bonfire with carefully collected wood ready to burn. Fireworks appeared in the shops about two weeks before the big day. They were often sold in selection boxes, Standard or Brocks were popular makes, then stored in

a dry safe place. Rockets and larger fireworks were sold separately along with bangers and sparklers. Among my favourites were Catherine wheels, jumping jacks, roman candles and golden fountains. How we looked forward to the day!

On the streets you could see homemade Guy Fawkes with "Penny for the guy" notices. Often they were made of old clothes, trousers and pullovers stuffed with newspaper and string tied around the ends and pushed around on old prams or wheelbarrows. Any money collected was used to buy more fireworks.

We were so excited we could hardly wait for it to be dark enough to start the fun. We would write our names with sparklers and watch in awe from a safe distance, as father lit the blue touch paper. Catherine wheels were nailed to the fence and rockets launched from glass milk bottles. Maybe if you were lucky, there would be toffee apples, gingerbread or potatoes cooked in the glowing embers of the bonfire afterwards. The next day, on the streets and in gardens, would be the forlorn sight of spent fireworks and wooden rocket sticks. We had treasured memories left till next year.

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I used to love those charred, flaky potato skins - even now, there's nothing like a proper baked potato, cooked in the oven rather than in the microwave, but somehow I never manage to think of it in time! Toffee apples must have wrecked our teeth, just as the delicious rosehip syrup did, but apple bobbing at Hallowe'en was great too - messy but less sugar!

This is certainly the season for getting out the extra blankets, bringing in the last of the pelargoniums, making sure there's hot chocolate in the house and digging out the bedsocks. In a spirit of keeping spirits up when there's less sunshine, Howard and Shelly have been decorating: if you look carefully, you can just see that the paint has stars in it - isn't that wonderful?



A bit of singing always helps too, so Jennie has drawn up a wishlist of some of our favourites! Here are the clues, with answers and links to the music at the end, so that you can sing along.

Here you go...

### **Come Singing Favourites Quiz**

1. This song mentions raindrops, most appropriate, as the weather has been very wet recently.
2. I think most of us have passed this age-related milestone! Think 50 + 10.
3. We need windy weather for this pastime.
4. It's not always easy to follow the advice about smiling but we must try to keep cheerful.
5. A favourite little bird which appears on Christmas cards; he 'bobs' along.
6. The Kingdom Choir were invited to sing this song at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in Westminster Abby.
7. Unfortunately couples are unable to celebrate their special day ( 'in the morning ' ) at the moment.
8. Tom Jones is in full voice singing about a lady.
9. Oh to be in a boat on the river when the sun is shining.
10. A Doris Day favourite; the future is not ours to see.

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'There's nothing like the sun', a poem by Edward Thomas describes the golden days that often come in November. Here's part of it:

...  
The south wall warms me: November has begun,  
Yet never shone the sun as fair as now  
While the sweet last-left damsons from the bough  
With spangles of the morning's storm drop down  
Because the starling shakes it, whistling what  
Once swallows sang. But I have not forgot  
That there is nothing, too, like March's sun,  
Like April's, or July's, or June's, or May's,  
Or January's, or February's, great days:  
August, September, October, and December  
Have equal days, all different from November.  
No day of any month but I have said---  
Or, if I could live long enough, should say---  
'There's nothing like the sun that shines today.'

Today started off misty, with remnants of the bonfire smoke, but the sun was behind the haze and soon came out... By mid-morning it was glorious, and the street was busy with people, children and dogs taking their lockdown walk before eleven.

Remembrance Sunday seemed all the more significant this year. While we couldn't gather in the usual way for eleven o'clock, many of my neighbours stood outside their houses to observe the silence, and cyclists and cars stopped to join us.

Jennie sent this Remembrance memory:

A few years ago we travelled to Belgium to pay our respects to Great Uncle Jimmy who is remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, a truly moving experience. On the way, we visited Poperinge, the village where Toc H was founded by the Rev. Tubby Clayton; a place of refuge from the front line. The building was open to all ranks who were treated equally, and with the same great care and kindness. Toc H as a movement, took its name from Talbot House, Toc being the signallers' code for the letter T.



Did you this about November?:



- November was so-named because it was the ninth month of the Roman calendar.
- We've already missed it, but National **Men Make Dinner** Day is celebrated on the first Thursday in November. What do you think would be on offer in your house?!
- On November 26, 1922, the archaeologist Howard Carter and his team entered the Egyptian tomb of King Tutankhamen.
- Both Jonathan Swift, author of "Gulliver's Travels", and Sir Winston Churchill were born on November 30, although more than a few years apart...
- November 30th is also St. Andrew's Day
- On 23 November 1852 the first four British pillar boxes were introduced as an experiment in St Helier, on the island of Jersey. They were hexagonal and painted red - very inviting for the Christmas season ahead, although sending Christmas cards had only begun in the UK in 1845.
- The last Sunday before Advent is Stir-up Sunday, the traditional day for making Christmas puddings! The name comes from the collect (or reading) appropriate for the day from the Book of Common Prayer, which begins: "**Stir-up, we beseech thee**, O Lord". The pudding is traditionally made with 13 ingredients to represent Christ and His Disciples.
- Robert Burns' poem 'Wee sleekit cowran, tim'rous beastie' is actually called 'To a Mouse, On Turning Her up in Her Nest with the Plough, November 1785'. Here's another Burns favourite <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D54ibd1vqJw>

Keep safe, cheery and well during this lockdown, keep in touch and keep sending us your lovely pictures, poems and ideas for music. The fifth Come Singing at Home video should be available on November 10th on the lovely Norfolk Library website <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/library-services/health-and-wellbeing/online-resources>. It'll be a bit of a collectors' item, having been done with just one hand as well as no voice, but you can do your bit by singing loudly!

All of us at Come Singing send our best wishes and love to you.

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### **Come Singing favourites quiz answers**

1. Raindrops keep fallin' on my head. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JebowNHkA\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JebowNHkA_M)
2. When I'm 64. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCTunqv1Xt4>
3. Let's go fly a kite. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNSler7jBW8>
4. When you're smiling. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=351l62Yx0oI>
5. When the red, red robin. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOn-ulDk-oE>



6. Stand by me. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwZNL7QVJjE>
7. I'm getting married in the morning. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM3hvGWfYu0>
8. Delilah. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qvo5SeAwz88>
9. Cruising down the river. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc\\_3Pwjmg20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc_3Pwjmg20)
10. Que Sera, Sera. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZbKHDPPrc>