



## BEGINNING OF JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Come Singing Friends,

Who would believe that half the year has gone already, goodness knows where to, but we are well and truly into summer: Wimbledon, strawberries and traffic hold-ups on sunny days to get to the coast!

The bees should be busy now in our lime tree, the noise is incredible when the blossom is in full bloom but it's only now just coming out. Apparently, you can make tea from the flowers, all you need to do is dry them away from the sun and they're ready for the pot. It's supposed to have a semi sweet, mild citrus flavour - I might give it a go when they're ready.



LIME (LINDEN) TREE BLOSSOM

I found this saying regarding bees in "The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady":

*"A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay,  
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon,  
A swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly."*

Does that mean the honey production falls away in July?

This question prompted me to read up on bees and May is their busiest time of year, the nectar collection being in full swing. We unfortunately had such a cold, wet month in May, I wonder if it will affect bee colonies? I didn't realise that beekeepers sometimes have to give their bees a supply of sugar syrup in the winter and early spring months, if honey production was low the previous season. Let's hope the bees this year made the most of the warmer, sunnier weather - when we had it!

Below is a lovely picture of Jane and John's garden with a variety of trees in the background. I imagine there's all kinds of birds nesting in them. Looks as if the crop of potatoes in the foreground are now in flower, they'll be ready for the pot soon and you can't get much fresher than that!



Jane and John's Garden -

And Ena and Derrick had major horticultural works last week. It's a big garden - 100 feet long - and things had got a bit out of hand so that it had grown into a wilderness! (Ena's word!) The tree surgeons came and took down some overgrown trees, cleared all the debris, cut the grass, and trimmed the long hedge which runs all the way from front to back. Derrick and Ena can see all their favourite shrubs again now, and say that it feels lovely! All ready now for deck chairs and strawberry teas?



Shelly and Howard sent in this striking little flower from their garden – is it Tradescantia?

**WHAT'S IN A NAME? - MUSICAL QUIZ:** Answers on the back page.

It's amazing how many songs include names either in the title or in the lyrics, see how many you can guess. Can you come up with any more songs with names in?

1. This girl is always window shopping but never stopping to buy? A hit for the Seekers and from a film starring Lynn Redgrave.
2. I will always want you for my sweetheart, no matter what you do. Who is Neil Sedaka singing about?
3. This chap married someone who has already been married several times and they've all had the same name – what was it? Sung by Harry Champion.
4. Good times never seemed so good – with whom. A sing-along song by Neil Diamond.
5. Who had the best Ragtime band in the land? This version sung by Liberace.
6. Who had the Beach Boys rockin' and a rollin', rockin' and a reelin'?
7. The Kentucky bluebird was going to fly away and take a message to who? A hit for Adam Faith.
8. Who do the lassies shout hello to when the wind blows? Sung by Andy Stewart.
9. There's none so classy as this fair lassie, who is she? Sung by Eddie Cantor.
- 10 She's wearing second-hand hats and second-hand clothes, what's her name? A Barbara Streisand version.

“What's in a name” a line spoken by Juliet from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. From Act II, scene II.

“What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet.



A lovely picture kindly sent in by Shelly and Howard – from their garden.

Digging a little deeper into names, words and thoughts, I'm not totally sure I agree with this statement – "you can't think without language". Now I know my dog can't talk although I can tell the difference between her barking sounds. What I do know is that if I go out of the kitchen and have left food out accidentally then that food will no longer be there when I return. Has she thought about stealing the food when no-one is around, or is it impulse?

Have a look at the photograph below of one of our couples and their beautiful dogs. Millie in the foreground is obviously enjoying being petted and looks very placid. What is Poppy, who's reading the newspapers, thinking though? Please email your thoughts to [heatheredwards.music@gmail.com](mailto:heatheredwards.music@gmail.com)



Millie and Poppy are both 7 years of age, two incredibly lucky dogs to have been given the loving home they needed. Millie had produced several litters of puppies before finding her new home and Poppy was a rescue dog, very nervous to start with but much better now

\* \* \* \* \*

Owning a pet is a privilege and brings us joy but there eventually comes a time when we have to say goodbye. Shelly and Howard wanted to share the sad news about their beloved dog Mcgee who had to be put to sleep recently after a shock illness. We send them our love and hope they find comfort knowing they shared very many happy times together.



Mcgee

Back to the subject of words - Heather has sent in a quiz to 'Increase our wordpower'...

Do you remember this item from Reader's Digest days? Some writers of song lyrics seem very keen to include obscure words, and we wondered if you recognise any of these favourites? Answers (and a picture!) at the end.

1. What is a cayuse?
2. Why might someone be ' bromidic and bright as a moon-happy night pourin' light on the dew'?!
3. Whose 'inamorata adjusted her garter' and what did they sing together?
4. What vehicle had 'isinglass curtains you can pull right down, in case there's a change in the weather?' And what is isinglass?
5. What might a 'little brown maverick' be on a beautiful morning?

How did you do? I thought I knew the answer to No. 5, but not nearly enough it seems.

\* \* \* \* \*

Let's go to the seaside no matter what the weather. I love this poem; it brings back some wonderful memories of being young and carefree! If we can, why don't we all try to dip our feet in the sea this year – I'm not sure about making angels in the sand though.

**When we got to the beach by Hollie McNish**

i screamed  
sprinted to the sea  
flung off shoes and socks  
ran towards imagined heaving waves  
and jumped each tiny trickle that I found there  
with just the same excitement

you stayed back  
took your socks off more timidly  
giggled at your stupid mother  
eventually took my hand

we jumped together  
and we jumped together  
and we jumped together

three hours later  
collapsing on our backs  
we made angels in the sand

the seaside always made me  
want to scream

now  
with you  
i can



A painting by the Spanish artist Joaquín Sorolla

Stay safe and keep singing [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV7\\_yB5f6PA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV7_yB5f6PA) with lots of love from all at Come Singing.

#### ANSWERS TO MUSICAL QUIZ:

1. Georgie Girl. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrATEhTXob4>
2. Carol. Oh Carol, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e72tG80LmsU>
3. Henry. Henry the VIII, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeUI6s073RA>
4. Caroline. Sweet Caroline, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty1dwBCR6D0>
5. Alexander. Alexander's Ragtime band, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEOMK-P3hMI>
6. Barbara Ann. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2kOexjzY3I>
7. Martha. Message to Martha, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGd-U67vGFk>
8. Donald. Donald Where's your Trousers, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqtFnAZu1YI>
9. Susie. If You Knew Susie, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InTuAeGjr4M>
10. Rose. Second hand Rose, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCtrcAp3TEY>

#### ANSWERS TO INCREASE YOUR WORDPOWER:

1. A small horse, known for unruly temperament. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMnLoOnrwbG>
2. She's trite and happily satisfied because she's 'in love with a wonderful guy'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xny7G9YrrBU>
3. The bold hippopotamus. 'Mud, mud, glorious mud...!' [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjnOj9O16\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjnOj9O16_I)
4. Isinglass is clear gelatine made from certain fish bladders, usually the bladders of sturgeon. It was once used in glues and jellies, and to make drop-windows on buggies to be unrolled and zipped into place any time "there is a change in the weather." [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIG\\_GVE-KiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIG_GVE-KiE)
5. An animal, usually a form of cattle, that does not carry a brand. The name comes from Samuel Augustus Maverick who settled in Texas and acquired lots of land. He wasn't a rancher, and when given 400 cattle to settle a debt, he simply turned them free to live off the rich land. His calves were recognisable as his because they weren't branded, and the word 'maverick' passed into the language. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5APc0z49wg>

