



## Late September Come Singing newsletter

Dear Friends,

It's a glorious Indian summer afternoon - the sort you wish you could put into a bottle and save for the dark winter days! There's lovely late afternoon light, tiny wild cyclamen,



the quinces are still swelling and ripening and all my friends seem to have spare courgettes which have grown into marrows while their backs were turned. My mum used to love finding ways to make use of gluts of any sort - marrow and apple ginger jam, chutney, stuffed marrow, etc... The only time I remember her being defeated was when we lived in the North of Scotland, at Thurso near John O'Groats. My brother used to go out on the boats with the fishermen and came home one day with a huge fresh hunk of meat from a whale which had been beached at Scrabster. Mum tried it in pie, curry (to disguise the taste), patties, fried and all sorts, but even the dog couldn't quite fancy it and the remains had to be buried in the garden!



Windfall apples are so much easier...



Have you ever thought back to the songs and things you heard as a child? Scotland was where my love of music started as a child. We really did sing lots of the wonderful folk songs and ballads, and the places and stories felt very real and close by...

Speed bonny boat <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1CTxa-FuKc>

Loch Lomond <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXGVFJqSqqg>

Mingulay boat song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgkGrm5516k>

My love is like a red red rose <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6Z8f42fF8M>

My sister had a closely-guarded gramophone, covered in red rexine, with a heavy arm and stylus that could do real damage to her very few records. I *think* they were:



'It takes a worried man to sing a worried song', <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhgFrtr7Zcs>

Peggy Lee's 'Fever', <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGb5lweiYG8>

'Stranger on the Shore', <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEr4CCtIIA>

'See you later alligator' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Hb66FH9Azi>

excerpts from Carmen and Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony - quite a mix!

There was a cinema in Thurso, so Walt Disney's Fantasia and Bambi were seared into my psyche but I bet I never tried singing Stravinsky's Rite of Spring or The Sorcerer's Apprentice!



But I digress...

How about a quiz on fruit and veg?

1. How might a disagreement on pronunciation of fruit and veg lead to a romantic break-up?
2. A colour 'sweeter than the honeycomb' according to the Bee Gees...
3. Roger Miller thought these windfalls were proof of the goodness of life!
4. Not exactly garden produce - more likely to be found on the fairground!
5. A hit for Dee Dee Sharp - comfort food...
6. ... and would go well with this meat and veg dish!
7. Something sweeter, and you can pick your own here...
8. And more exotic, succulent and juicy - a calypso favourite!
9. If you want to be top of the class, try this as a bribe...
10. Something a little cooler: these vegetables featured in American Graffiti!

I need to get better at pruning - am tentative and undecided, so my garden could best be described as rampant - but one of my very favourite poems by George Herbert is about that very thing. At first I didn't notice his genius in 'pruning' the last word of each verse - how can something so beautiful be so clever? This is for Ena, who loves poetry.

#### Paradise

I bless thee, Lord, because I grow  
Among thy trees, which in a row  
To Thee both fruit and order owe.

What open force or hidden charm  
Can blast my fruit or bring me harm  
While the enclosure is Thine arm?

Enclose me still for fear I start.  
Be to me rather sharp and tart  
Than let me want Thy hand and art.

When Thou dost greater judgements spare,  
And with thy knife but prune and pare,  
E'en fruitful trees more fruitful are.

Such sharpness shows the sweetest friend;  
Such cuttings rather heal than rend,  
And such beginnings touch their end.

George Herbert

Although the weather's been so odd, there's been chance to get out and about a bit more this summer. I've loved going to Cromer, simply to look at the sea and walk along the top for a while.

Quite a few Come Singing friends have connections with the sea. Jane, for example, grew up in Mundesley and Cromer and comes from a distinguished maritime family. Her grandfather was Case James Albert Silom, Acting Skipper Lieutenant and leading Seaman in the Royal Naval



Reserve, whose name appears in the Lowestoft Roll of Honour <https://www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/s/html/silom-case-james-albert.htm>

Another relative, James Cable was a renowned Aldeburgh lifeboatman. His RNLI obituary says:



*Few, if any, Coxswains have had more brilliant careers, and his name was known far beyond the boundaries of his own county. He was the most distinguished member of a family which has an unequalled record in the Life-boat Service; for five generations have served in the Aldeburgh Life-boats. He was a grandson of Thomas Cable, who served from the time when the first Life-boat was stationed at Sizewell, near Aldeburgh, in 1824, until he lost his life on service thirty-five years later. James Cable himself was Coxswain from 1888 until 1917. He was three times awarded the Institution's Silver Medal for gallantry. He received awards for Life-boat services from the Norwegian and Finnish Governments, and from the German Emperor. He held the Humane Society's Medal for saving life from the shore, and three times received its Vote of Thanks on Vellum for similar services. He was presented with a Silver Box by the Mayor and Corporation of Aldeburgh for going out in his own boat and rescuing four men, and with a Silver Cigarette Case by a lady, three of whose daughters he had saved at various times from drowning.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrO1Ylbesdk>

That's taken us a long way from early autumn afternoons and growing potatoes...

After such a funny summer we're heading gently into autumn and hoping that this will be a very different year from the last one. We're still not ready to start singing together in person - we long to and we will, we will, but have to be sure that we can keep everyone safe, and we need to see what this winter will bring. In the meantime do please keep in touch and keep singing - music keeps us alive and brings such rays of sunshine. One friend, Sophie, sometimes rings up just to play me something uplifting, and it never fails to change the day for the better! Why not try doing the same for a friend or family?

Keep safe and well.

With much love from everyone at Come Singing



### Fruit and veg quiz answers

1. You say potato <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRrw2hDjnI4>
2. Cherry red <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEuuzkyuLCI>
3. Little green apples <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IH2s0OYY3E>
4. I've got a lovely bunch of  
coconuts [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjfAx\\_rbq6M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjfAx_rbq6M)
5. Mashed Potato <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51eJ3-h86JQ>
6. Boiled beef and carrots <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mIMIUqAa3w>
7. Strawberry Fields  
forever [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtUH9z\\_Oey8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtUH9z_Oey8)
8. Mango Walk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K29qz1RlKs>
9. An apple for the teacher <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGO6IYkf9Cc>
10. Green Onions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oox9bJaGJ8>