



MAY BANK HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER 2021

Dear Everybody,

I began writing this yesterday, with rain pattering down on the conservatory roof, leaden skies and a hot water bottle on my lap - a true British bank holiday scenario! Certainly no dancing round the maypole or dabbling my toes in the dew. Chilly memories of Blackpool and Whitley Bay beaches seemed nearer the mark...



Today started off much better, with a walk towards the sunrise. On the way home, with the sun behind, my shadow stretched out well ahead of me, and the skies had cleared to ice-blue. It was heavenly, but now the rain's back!



Thinking of being out and about, Brian kindly sent this picture of his wonderful Rover: I wonder if Chitty-Chitty-bang was anything like this?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lt4eugZLsY>



I have been running Rover Cars since the early 1960s and have always enjoyed maintaining and rebuilding them. When I retired in 1994, I thought it would be nice to have another old open tourer. I heard of a 1936 open tourer laid up in a barn in Devon and managed to get it home to Norfolk. I have since spent a happy time in my workshop stripping it down and overhauling it, both mechanically and bodily. It is now finished and ready for the road.

No comparison intended(!) but I have always loved the reprobate Mr. Toad in *The Wind in the Willows* and his addiction to motor cars:

The car stood in the middle of the yard, quite unattended, the stable-helpers and other hangers-on being all at their dinner. Toad walked slowly round it, inspecting, criticising, musing deeply.

'I wonder,' he said to himself presently, 'I wonder if this sort of car STARTS easily?' Next moment, hardly knowing how it came about, he found he had hold of the handle and was turning it. As the familiar sound broke forth, the old passion seized on Toad and completely mastered him, body and soul. As if in a dream he found himself, somehow, seated in the driver's seat; as if in a dream, he pulled the lever and swung the car round the yard and out through the archway; and, as if in a dream, all sense of right and wrong, all fear of obvious consequences, seemed temporarily suspended. He increased his pace, and as the car devoured the street and leapt forth on the high road through the open country, he was only conscious that he was Toad once more, Toad at his best and highest, Toad the terror, the traffic-queller, the Lord of the lone trail, before whom all must give way or be smitten into nothingness and everlasting night. He chanted as he flew, and the car responded with sonorous drone; the miles were eaten up under him as he sped he knew not whither, fulfilling his instincts, living his hour, reckless of what might come to him.

With the prospect of Spring, there are lots of songs about being out and about: Surrey with the fringe on top https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIG_GVE-KiE, Don't fence me in https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z_SOobHOW4, I was born under a wandering star <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI9eCRisbDo> and Chitty-chitty-bang-bang herself. You can probably think of lots of others...

If you're going out for the day, you might well take a picnic or even a hamper. In the sixteenth century, they clearly felt that singing and eating went well together, and I spotted this picture of a set of knives engraved with notation so that guests could sing for their supper - a lovely idea. Plastic picnic beakers printed with the tune of 'Cruising down the river' would be fun, but not quite so classy!



Gardens are coming to life again - this rain will help! Judy has had another visitor in her wildlife haven.

Hedgehog

Prickly scurrer
Little adventurer
Into the night
Garden light
Most welcome face
Upon the terr-ace
Surprise and delight
Startling sight
causing a fright
Long little snout
Pointing my way
What YOU doing out?
It may want to say!



In the last few weeks we've had a wonderful taste of singing together after so long. It's on the phone, organised by lovely Caroline from the library: she rings five or six of us up, one after the other, and then magically we can all chat, sing and have a laugh like we always did. It's a bit messy sometimes because of the delay on the line, but that doesn't seem to matter - it's just so nice to hear each other and catch up a bit! If you'd like to join in, do just let us know: it happens on Thursday mornings at 11.00 for about 45 minutes.

In the meantime, here's a quiz from Teresa and Jenny to prompt a bit of singing! Answers at the end as usual.

MUSICAL SHOWS AND FILMS QUIZ

1. This song from an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, initially sung by Michael Crawford, is for when darkness falls?
2. First sung by Julie Covington, about regret and love for her Country.
3. This young lady is looking in the mirror and wondering who that attractive girl can be – what is she singing?
4. This Broadway musical and song of the same name was recorded by Carol Channing and made famous by Louis Armstrong – find her an empty lap?
5. Let's start with the first three notes – can you name them?
6. What can you do to make believe you're brave – this certain trick will take you far?
7. While there's moonlight and music and love and romance..... what will the famous duo do next?
8. A smash hit in 2008, a musical based on the songs of a well-known Scandinavian group?
9. These characters sing this song on the way home from work. Can you name them and the song they sing?



10. This singer would like one long staircase just going up and one even longer coming down, and one more leading nowhere, just for show – if only he was what?

No newsletter would be complete without a recipe, so here are two from my mum's old notebook. The directions are a little vague, but they always seem to work out somehow! I used to make these shortbread biscuits for UEA students when they came round to play chamber music, and suspect that this was why they were so keen and diligent! You can substitute finely ground hazelnuts for a little of the flour if you like...

Shortbread biscuits

6 oz plain flour (or 175gm)
4 oz butter or sunflower margarine (110gm)
2 oz caster sugar (50gm)

Extra sugar for dusting if you like.
Oven Gas Mark 2, 300 degrees F or 150 degrees C

Cream butter and sugar, and mix in flour. Roll out thinly (3mm), cut to shape and bake 20 - 30 minutes. (Keep an eye on them!) Cool on a wire tray and dust with sugar if desired.

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Coconut cake

4 oz sugar
4oz margarine
2 eggs
2 tbsp warm water
3oz SR flour
3oz coconut

Gas Mark 4, 350 degrees F

Cream sugar and margarine. Add eggs and water. Fold in flour and coconut.
Bake 35 minutes or until done(!)

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One last thing....

In the last week, Broadland Council got in touch about art and music packs they have developed with Sinfonia Viva and Orchestra Live. They've kindly said that they're willing to give packs to anyone from Come Singing: these include a DVD of the orchestra performing and talking, a printed booklet full of activities and a pre-paid envelope and postcard so that you can send in your own ideas to be uploaded to the orchestra's website.

Given how creative you are, I thought some of you might like to join in. If so, just let me know and I'll arrange for packs to be sent.

So - keep well, keep cheery and keep singing!
With love from all of us at Come Singing

ANSWERS:

1. The Music of the Night. From The Phantom of the Opera.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3NIK-nsI2g>
2. Don't Cry for Me Argentina. From Evita.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VD89xRjYF8>
3. I Feel Pretty. From West Side Story.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgHtBxOs4qw>
4. Hello Dolly. From Hello Dolly.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7N2wssse14>
5. Do, Re, Mi. From The Sound of Music.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drnBMAEA3AM>
6. I Whistle a Happy Tune. From The King and I.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGS029Peg7k>
7. Let's Face the Music and Dance. From Top Hat.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c08wiEyVuak>
8. Mamma Mia. From Mamma Mia!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUjB9LTzGg>
9. Sleepy, Doc, Bashful, Grumpy, Happy, Sneezzy and Dopey singing Heigh Ho. From Snow White.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI0x0KYChq4>
10. If I Was a Rich Man. From Fiddler on the Roof.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBHZFYpQ6nc>