



COMESINGING NEWSLETER, MID-OCTOBER 2020

Dear All,

Well, it's October but as we've never known it before... This issue of Keyhole is full of the good things we associate with the month, your news and sudden shafts of sunlight in between the showers - much like the weather!



Jennie say that October stands for

O --- orange, red and yellow tints gleam in the autumn sunshine.

C --- conkers are glossy in their prickly cases.

T --- time to close the curtains early now.

O --- oak trees are heavy with acorns; scarlet rose hips adorn the hedgerows.

B --- blackberries are gone for another year.

E --- early morning mists to wake up to.

R --- remember warm summer days; they will return.

And from John, here is John Keats' wonderful poem describing the golden days. There isn't space for all of it, but even just the first words set the scene:

To Autumn

Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease'
From summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

The days are closing in but we can look forward to an extra hour of sleep when the clocks go back on the 25th, National Apple Day on the 21st and pumpkin soup from the leftovers of Hallowe'en!



Everything feels different this year because of Covid, but keeping in touch will help to keep our spirits up while we can't be together - or perhaps putting thoughts into song or a poem. For those of you reading Keyhole as an email, listen to this great **Ballad of Corona** which Sophie found, broadcast from someone's sitting room. Written earlier in the year, but nothing much has changed...

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10223122027909870&id=1556916094&rdr

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Jean tells it as it is for many of us: often lonely, frustrating, painful, but believing that the Vera Lynn spirit and the thought of singing will help to carry us through.

Can't get out I'm all alone
Sitting in my little room
T'reason being that I'm so sad
I've got a bad leg and it's making me mad;
My knee is worn out and a new one I need
A operation it will have to be
And it's making me housebound as you can see
The waiting list it will have to be.
I have waited nine months only to be told
That it will be another four or five months.
Its because of this virus, it's getting me down
But I am limping along with a very big frown.
But hopefully I will be walking along
And we will all be together singing our songs.

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Sometimes, though, it gets to the point when you can only laugh: Peter wrote

My hearing is somewhat compromised these days so when Christine mentioned the new 'rule of six' that was announced it sounded to me like the new 'rule of sex'!
!.....big laughs all round. However the reality may be nearer then we thought when Matt Hancock was not able to clarify who should visit who depending on relationships!!

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We can keep our minds active, though - do you know the origin of these surnames?

1. What kind of work was done by a Tucker?
2. What trade or profession would a Falker follow?
3. The surname Pitman derives from what occupation?
4. What was a Yeoman?
5. What was the trade of a Tasker?
6. By what name would a Lorimer's trade be known nowadays?
7. Dealing with animals, what was a Kellogg?
8. What was the trade of a Keeler?
9. Do you know what a Dexter did?
10. A Cooper's trade was what?
11. And what about a Crocker?
12. What was an Ackerman? (Answers at the end!)

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Last month's idea of fantasy days out brought a lovely suggestion from Anne:

My dream day out would be to see the Blackpool illuminations. If the night is dry and clear the seafront lights are glorious. A tram ride and then a slow walk is magical and the tower in full view. I have some great memories of the seafront and the sunsets over the sea. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yceBTuQqBos> A visit to the ballroom, listening and watching the dancers, is a musical memory that will stay with me for a long time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhdIS--4t98> What a place to visit, with lots to see and enjoy!

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But your own garden can be safari enough. Peter writes:

We have had partridges visit for the first time.....they seem particularly less frightened than most of our other feathered friends. This one came regularly to the back door every morning for some food!

We named him Phillip....

We don't like the Sparrowhawks doing their hunting bit in our garden but that is their way of course.



Other regular visitors are the hedgehogs, now on the red 'endangered species' list. There are at least 2 of them, Boss Hog & Mom Hog as we have named them. We have set up a 'feeding station' which they visit every night. Difficult to get pics. as they are really night creatures.

We were surprised to see a youngster in June out in the afternoon, they may be not well if seen at this time but he/she did eventually move to only coming in the darkness as my special camera eventually showed.

Here is Spike before he learned to only come out later!:-



If you have hedgehogs and a fence around your garden please ensure you have a hole or a gap at least 13cm x 13cm for them to pass through as they can roam 2-3 kilometres every night in search of food. Just feed them cat or dog food if you think they need it to fatten up for the Winter. The dry weather has meant less 'slugs & snails' for them to eat.

I am a member of the British Hedgehog Preservation Trust and can let you know more if people are interested?

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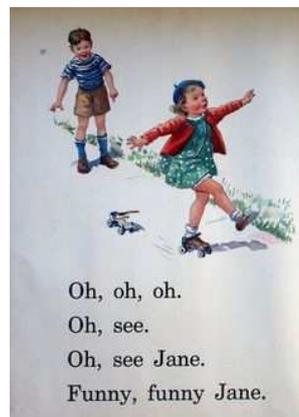
My brain needs more quizzes, to stop it going into hibernation! Here's another one, from Jennie, with lots of songs in the answers.

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

1. We love to welcome these friendly birds to our gardens, although the song title bids farewell.
2. Oh to be able to sing this song; too much gloomy weather at the moment.
3. Another 'sunny' song to keep on side.
4. During the recent wet weather, these have been visible when the sun came out; sing up!
5. Not a good place to sit unless you are with your loved one.
6. Our feathered friends must be looked after, especially during the winter.
7. Spring time in the orchards.
8. We usually talk to each other, not the greenery!
9. The moon stood still here. Maybe you eat this healthy fruit with your breakfast.
10. A beautiful romantic song to finish with; includes the words red and love.

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The last Keyhole was sent out just after the autumn school term had started, and Pat sent in these memories of school days in the 50s and 60s.



There was no State school for the under 5s at that time, and often it was the first time children had been separated from their mothers. Sometimes it was tearful for both.

Milk for school children was introduced after the war to supplement the diet and arrived in crates of silver topped 1/3 pint bottles. In winter they occasionally froze and a column of iced milk rose above the top of the bottle. Putting the crate near a radiator to thaw it would result in luke warm milk – but you had to finish it. “You will drink it all up! Milk is good for you.”

Exercise was often in the form of PE. Some children had plimsolls but we all had to strip off to our underwear for this. Play time was a free for all and usually boys played football while girls skipped or played more “lady-like” games.

Radio broadcasts began in the 60s. Music and Movement resulted in being encouraged to use one’s imagination “Everyone move like trees in the wind”. This makes me think about

Joyce Grenfell. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXhHFgDRNBQ>

Singing Together was another programme where the whole class sang traditional folk songs or sea shanties, although how suitable they were for young children is questionable!

The Ash grove,

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=qak5Vb209Ng&list=RDAMVMqak5Vb209Ng>

Bobby Shaftoe

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=_gjqV7mNvbs&list=RDAMVM_gjqV7mNvbs

Polly Oliver

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=PMPJzt8HJdw&list=RDAMVMPMPJzt8HJdw>

Medical inspections seemed quite frequent and were a welcome distraction from the routine. We would line up to see the nurse or the dentist and have our hearing and eyesight tested or once a vaccination against polio.

Classes usually consisted of 30 to 40 children and discipline was strict. “Naughty” children received corporal punishment or a rap on the knuckles with a ruler. “Chalk and talk” was the style of teaching and great emphasis was laid on the Three Rs. We chanted our times tables and learned poetry by heart. Neat hand writing was stressed and the only science done was nature study. Most classrooms had a nature table. There was an emphasis on being proudly British in that era.

By the time we sat the 11+ for secondary school selection (an essay, a maths paper, puzzles and problem solving) we were “well schooled” and ready to move on.



Reading, laughing and singing will keep us all going this autumn and winter.

Peter found a wonderfully naughty video clip about words we mis-hear in songs - certainly not material for Singing Together!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7my5baoCVv8&list=RD7my5baoCVv8&start_radio=1&t=5&ab_channel=PeterKay

I can promise you that the fourth and next library Come Singing at Home video (due out soon on

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmw2CBV4UBFHj1dpVxv5V2-EX5fE5F1Z>) will be much less risqué, even if a bit disorganised on my part...

Though I really and truly can't sing
(the piano is much more my thing),
I find singing and songs
put right all the world's wrongs.
Do just try - it will change everything!

Keep safe, keep cheery, do keep sending your news and **do keep singing!**

With love from everyone at Come Singing

Quiz answers

SURNAMES...

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. A cloth cleaner | 7. Slaughterman |
| 2. Falcon keeper | 8. Bargeman |
| 3. Miner | 9. Dyer |
| 4. Farmer or Landowner | 10. Barrel maker |
| 5. Reaper | 11. Potter |
| 6. Bridlemaker | 12. Ploughman |

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL...

1. Bye, bye blackbird. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX_75D0IC2o
2. Here comes the sun. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQetemT1sWc>
3. Keep on the sunny side. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbmQQ4RfzVE>
4. I can sing a rainbow. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxsHzfpjbHw>
5. Don't sit under the apple tree. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcyiC79I910>
6. Feed the birds. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHrRxQVUFN4>
7. Apple blossom time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4gyB-IWU00>
8. I talk to the trees. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn8YubD01sk>
9. Blueberry Hill. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4zF3M_Y24E
10. Roses are red, my love. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yjQEvHYPgA>

