



Mid November newsletter

There have been lots of reasons recently to think about rainwear!! I quite like being out in the wet but been glad of waterproof trousers a few times recently, and even a sou' wester. And there have often been wonderful skies afterwards...



Many songs seem to have a love affair with bad weather:

Raining in my heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lLeZoflwGps>

Raindrops keep falling on my head <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hziG9Nr6KHU>

Stormy weather <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zywZUhaUqMo>

So how about umbrellas? They began in Ancient Egypt to protect against heat rather than rain - fans of leaves or coloured feathers fixed on a long handle - but slowly became more elaborate. By 1611 they were: "...made of leather, in the form of a canopy with little wooden hoops that extend the umbrella in a pretty large compass, used especially by horsemen... fastening the end of the handle upon one of their thighs."

Once their potential for wet weather was realised, snobbism crept in: in 1768, a Paris magazine wrote: "Those who do not want to be mistaken for vulgar people much prefer to take the risk of being soaked, rather than to be regarded as someone who goes on foot; an umbrella is a sure sign of someone who doesn't have his own carriage."

Nowadays folding brollies and smart furred umbrellas are welcome everywhere!

Bus Stop <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt75wQ0JypA>

The Umbrella man <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3EcAazrTw8>



Wellies were 'invented' by George Hoby the finest bootmaker in Regency London for the Duke of Wellington. Normal boots, called Hessians had tassels and were mid-height with a small heel, but many cavalry injuries in battle were caused bullets wounds to the knee. Hoby removed the tassel and used waxed calfskin leather to the knee to produce something suitable not just for war but as informal evening wear. The boots soon became popular and were named after the Duke himself, with one portrait showing just his head and a boot! Rubber wellies (gumboots) came later when an American

industrialist teamed up with Charles Goodyear the inventor of vulcanisation (and rubber tyres...) Until 1956, they were only available in black, but now look at them! The current world record for gumboot throwing is 209.9ft (63.98 metres).

Billy Connolly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OxwuGI6NBA>

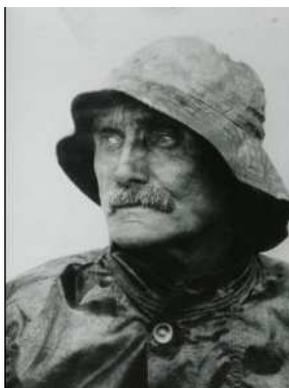
Mackintoshes came later: they were **first sold in 1824**, and named after the Scottish inventor Charles Macintosh of rubberised fabric. Early ones could be a bit smelly stiff, and tended to melt in hot weather. but later improvements in his fabrics made things much better!



Yellow raincoat <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99Z0SPS3G68>

Sorry about this!! Hat on my head <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3H7lyVrvhE>

Sou'wester hats were very popular in the 19th century when **fishermen** wore oiled clothes. The hat had a long flap in the back to protect the neck from rain, and in the front of the hat was a roll-up brim, which acted as a gutter to catch rain, preventing water from running down the fishermen's face.



Windy old weather <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak4cSiTOq9k>

Blow the man down <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h1scwwUGBI> Watch out for a familiar face!!!!

Helen has sent some playground memories of games we used to play, whatever the weather...

These played when we were 9, 10 & 11 years old – how unsophisticated we were!
Plus all that fresh air!!

Skipping

In some games we ran in or out whilst the rope was turning. If you stopped the rope you were “out” & took one of the ends. Some games, if you were “out” you went behind one of the rope turners & when everyone was out, there was a tug-of-war.

One of many rhymes rhyme was:

All in together, girls

This fine weather, girls

When it is your birthday, please jump out

January, February, March, April

Everyone skipped in the rope until their birthday month was called when they had to run out without stopping the rope.



Singing games



The big ship sails through The Alley, Alley O

The Alley, Alley O

The Alley, Alley O

The big ship sails through The Alley, Alley O

On a cold and frosty morning.

All joined hands in a long line. The first person put their hand against the wall, making an arch and the last person in the line led us through. This went on, with an arch made

between the 1st & 2nd person, 2nd and 3rd, etc in turn until they were all facing the other way with hands crossed in front of them.

Ball games

With the flat of a hand, we would keep a ball bouncing on the ground to a rhyme.

One such was....

One, two, three a Learie

Four, five, six a Learie

Seven eight, nine a Learie

Ten a Learie, Catch me (on these words we'd catch the ball in both hands)

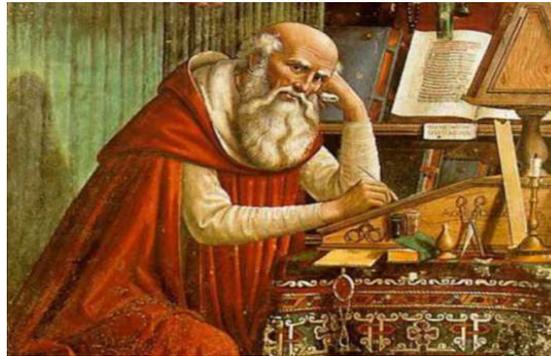
At “Allerie” we would pass the ball under our leg to bounce on the floor & catch it on the other side.

Or try this version?! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ziL-0N1-Os

What's the time Mr Wolf?

One person stood with their back to all the others who stood in a line across the yard. They chanted “What's the time Mr Wolf?” “he” would reply a time (one o'clock, nine o'clock etc). Each time he did so, the others would creep forwards towards him trying to get to him before he saw them. Whenever he felt like it he would say “lunch time!” & turn round & try to catch any of the others before they got back to the line. If he did, they were Mr Wolf & the game started again.

After all that weather and exercise it probably feels safer to stay indoors! How about something to stretch the brain a bit? Teresa has sent a night-time quiz for darker evenings...



There are many songs that include the word evening, night or tonight in the title. Since you've got such big clues see if you can get them all right.

1. A song from a 1986 musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber made famous by Michael Crawford.
2. Here's a song from the 1936 musical "Swing Time" sung by Fred Astaire? Lovely; never, ever change.
3. This Welsh tune goes back to 1784 but the English lyrics, by Sir Harold Boulton, were not written until 1884. It's sometimes referred to as a lullaby or hymn.
4. Going back to musicals - this story is based on the book "Pygmalion" by George Bernard Shaw. What's the song Eliza Doolittle sings whilst getting ready for bed?



5. Bobby Vee made this song famous in 1962 - remember not to tell those little white lies?
6. This song is from a 1957 musical lightly based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet - although the two main leads in this story are called Tony and Maria?
7. A Beatles Song - I've been working like a dog... and should be sleeping like a log?
8. We're in South Pacific now, who can explain it, who can tell you why - can you name the song?
9. Sung by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons in 1975, it's sometimes known as December 1963?
10. We're going to finish with music composed in 1787 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik?

John and Linda have sent a sequence of poems, moving from deepest Eeyore gloom to a chink of hope and then a wholehearted blaze of November!

No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon-
No dawn-
No sky - no early view -
No distant looking blue -
No road - no street - no t'other side the way'-
No end to any Row -
No indication where the Crescents go -
No top to any steeple -
No recognition of familiar people -
No courtesies for showing 'em -
No knowing 'em!
No travelling at all - no locomotion,

No inkling of the way - no notion -
'No go' - by land or ocean -
No mail - no post -
No news from any foreign coast -
No company - no nobility -
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No park - no ring no afternoon gentility
No comfortable feel in any member-
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruit, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
November!

Thomas Hood



The Darkling Thrushl

I leant upon a coppice gate
When frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outlearn't,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.

The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail gaunt and small'
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar on nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew.





Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
And the silk inside a chestnut shell.
Jetplanes meeting in the air to be refuelled.
All these things I love so well

So I mustn't forget, No, I mustn't forget.
To say a great big Thank You
I mustn't forget.

Clouds that look like familiar faces
And the winter's moon with frosted rings.
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces
And the song the milkman sings

Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered
And a swallow curving in the sky
Shoes so comfy though they're worn out and
they're battered
And the taste of apple pie.

Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling
And a minnow darting down a stream
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering and
stalling
And a win for my home team.

Corey & Vicki Stout

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9mvrkQbzgc>

After that, all you need is a mug of hot mulled apple juice, and you'll be able to survive whatever the autumn weather throws at you! Everyone has their own favourite recipe, but you can make a quick version simply by simmering the ingredients below for 5 – 10 minutes:

1 litre apple juice (cloudy apple is nice)
Strips of lemon and/or orange peel
A cinnamon stick
Honey or sugar to taste

Enjoy!

We wish you everything good for a golden autumn and a cosy run towards December. Do please keep sending in your stories, pictures and music (to: heatheredwards.music@gmail.com) and let us know if you'd like to join in telephone singing on Thursday mornings – you just need to be comfortably at home with your ordinary phone and we'll ring you!

Keep safe and well, and don't forget to sing!
With love from everyone at Come Singing

Answers to Night Music quiz

1. The Music of the Night from The Phantom of the Opera. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3NIK-nsl2g>
2. The Way You Look Tonight. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIW_Ah0wg-w
3. All Through the Night. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW2aBxujzB4>
4. I Could Have Danced All Night. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hA9bEKKxTNU>
5. The Night has a Thousand Eyes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssCLB6Y8zjA>
6. Tonight, Tonight. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7xTvb-FAhQ>
7. It's Been a Hard Day's Night. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yjyj8gnqkYI>
8. Some Enchanted Evening. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbskoBOHyc8>



9. Oh, What a Night. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTUhniY3oRM>
10. A Little Night Music. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDhLwzy1yDE>

