



KEYHOLE

KEEP YOUR HOPES ALIVE

LATE OCTOBER '21 COME SINGING NEWSLETTER

Dear Come Singing Friends,

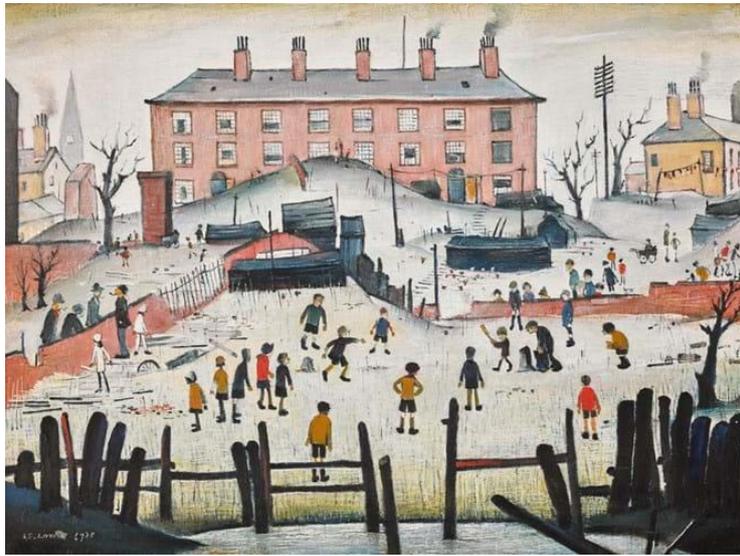
Have you noticed 'as you get older' (sorry - but this is a plus!) how the colours of Autumn seem to appear more vivid? Strange that while one's eyesight might be declining a little, the colour of nature when the sun gets low is so awe inspiring it makes you stop and gaze for a while at the beauty of it.



And the colour of horse chestnuts straight out of their husks are so shiny and new, you can't help but pick them up and take them home. You'll probably find them in your pocket a week or two later and they'll have lost their lustre but they're still lovely and smooth and bring back memories of conker challenges in the school playground. Now that could be rather a rough game depending on who your opponent was, and when the back of your hand was hit instead – boy, that really did hurt.



Do you remember the noise of the playground? Screams and shouts of glee and excitement, it hasn't changed, you can still hear that noise if you walk past any school during playtime.



Painting by Lowry,

(Just to keep you on your toes, what was his full name, and what duo had a hit song about him?)

It wasn't always the friendliest place, was it? What about the rhymes: "tell tale tit" and "Adam and Eve and nip-me-tight," or worse "see my finger, see my thumb"? I'll leave you to fill in the missing lines! But usually it was a happy escape from lessons for a while to let off steam with your friends. And then back to the classroom:

The Village Schoolmaster

by *Oliver Goldsmith*

Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
With blossomed furze unprofitably gay,
There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,
The village master taught his little school;
A man severe he was, and stern to view;
I knew him well, and every truant knew:
Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace
The day's disasters in his morning face;
Full well they laughed, with counterfeited glee,
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;
Full well the busy whisper, circling round,
Conveyed the dismal tidings when he frowned;
Yet he was kind, or, if severe in aught,
The love he bore to learning was in fault.
The village all declared how much he knew —
'Twas certain he could write, and cipher too;
Lands he could measure, terms and tides presage,
And e'en the story ran that he could gauge;
In arguing, too, the parson owned his skill,
For, e'en though vanquished, he could argue still,
While words of learned length and thundering sound
Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around;
And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew.

We received a lovely homemade card from a friend recently, who incidentally was a schoolteacher, and she had very cleverly managed to capture a murmuration. What is spectacular is the shape the starlings had made just as she took the photograph – isn't it amazing.



Here's a list of birds and their collective names but I've muddled them up if you want to have a go at putting them in the correct order. Answers on the back page.

1. Sparrow
2. Robins
3. Owls
4. Pigeons
5. Goldfinches
6. Blackbirds



- a. A Parliament
- b. A Quarrel
- c. A Charm
- d. A Cloud
- e. A Loft
- f. A Gift

RECIPE FOR BIRD-FEEDER BAUBLES:

Recently I found a recipe for bird-feeder baubles, and I gave it a go at the weekend. **All you need is an apple, peanut butter, bird seed and some string** - **1.** Carefully put a hole right through the centre of the apple. **2.** Thread the string through and up round the top, knotting securely, leaving a good length to loop round a branch. **3.** Smear it completely with peanut butter (rather messy) and then roll the apple in birdseed. **4.** Hang it on a branch or some other suitable place, then watch. If you have visiting squirrels they'll probably find it first!

A British female singer in the 60's recorded a song about "This Little Bird" – who was she?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeH52LTZ1ik>



Here are some more British female singers of the 50's and 60's.

Can you name both the singer and the song? Answers on the back page.

1. The first hit for this Liverpudlian girl who used to be a cloakroom attendant in The Cavern? It ticked away nicely in 1964?
2. This female singer won the Eurovision Song contest with this hit in 1967 but was she wearing her shoes? Can you name the song as well?
3. This young lady wanted to be someone's girl, but what was his name? A cover version hit for who in 1962?
4. He was good looking and so refined, but what else was he? A hit in 1967, this Dame's singing career has spanned over 60 years?
5. Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie sang the title song and starred in the 1967 film – what's her stage name and the name of the film?
6. She was very well known for her distinctive voice and her peroxide blonde bouffant/beehive hair style? What was her first solo hit?
7. This young lady started her career in the early 1950's and was known as the girl with a giggle in her voice? She recorded a number of novelty songs including one with the number twenty in the title – what was it?
8. Born in 1932, her career started as a young girl – she likes to sing in French as well? She's had a lengthy list of hits, one was written by Charlie Chaplin, can you name the serenade?
9. In 1961, this singer, while still very young, had two No.1 UK hits? The first one was "You Don't Know", can you name the second one?
10. This female singer entered the Eurovision Song Contest in 1965 and came 2nd but she's probably best known for her cover version of a Doris Day hit. Who was she and what was the cover hit?

As well as Top of the Pops, there were similar programmes on the T.V. like Juke Box Jury, Thank Your Lucky Stars, Six Five Special and Ready Steady Go? There seem to be some controversy about which show Janice Nicholls starred in with her catchphrase "Oi'll Give it Foive" – what do you think?

Heather has sent in this very interesting piece on remedies for coughs and sneezes...

It's getting to that season of the year, and there are already some rotten colds around... I found one of my dad's old diaries, where he was remembering his childhood in Salford and wrote:

If anybody had a sore throat, chamomile tea was made and sometimes a roast potato in a sweaty sock wrapped round your neck. It's a mystery to me why it had to be sweaty...

Does anyone else have remedies that have been handed down the family? (I haven't tried the sock, I hasten to add!!) A GP friend yesterday told me that quark compresses always used to do the trick for her son although her daughter would never hear of them! The idea was this: quark cheese is warmed to body temperature, spread on a cloth that is then folded over the cheese into a poultice shape, laid across the chest and kept warm.

Potentially smelly, but perhaps that was part of the idea?

Poultices are commonly used in Kneipp therapy which is very popular in Switzerland. The basis is water therapy, including treading water and short applications of cold water in compresses or showers(!) There are special Kneipp trails where you can wade barefoot through mountain streams... A friend who swears by it sent me a book of do-it-yourself remedies to try at home and so far I haven't been tempted...



Much more enticing is the Budwig diet, which aims to increase your intake of anti-oxidants via a cream made of linseed oil mixed with cottage cheese. It's rather delicious anyway, but I notice that a sample day's menu includes a glass of champagne or red wine before lunch, afternoon and supper - certainly calculated to make you feel better!!

Do let us know your favourite tried-and-true cures...

And please do send in items for future Newsletters to Heather at heatheredwards.music@gmail.com we really would love to hear from you; it's much more interesting to have a variety of contributions.

Don't forget the telephone singing with Heather and about 6 others, by courtesy of the Millennium Library, on Thursdays at 11am. If you haven't already given it a go and you would like to, please give Heather a call on 01603 452404 and you'll be put on the list

Please keep warm, cheery and well.

With lots of love and best wishes from all at Come Singing.

ANSWERS:

Laurence Stephen Lowry. Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs by Brian and Michael

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

Answers to the collective nouns of birds are taken from Bird spot: - 1b, 2f, 3a, 4e, 5c, 6d. (In some cases, there's more than one name, so I apologise if your answer differs from mine).

Marianne Faithfull recorded "This Little Bird" in 1965.

Janice Nicholls, with her catchphrase "Oi'll Give it Foive", appeared as a panel member on ITV'S "Thank Your Lucky Stars" shown on Saturday Evenings in the early sixties. Apparently when she left the show, she trained to be a chiropodist.

FEMALE SINGERS OF THE 50'S AND 60'S

1. Cilla Black, Anyone Who Had a Heart. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUxn6JLwdDY>
2. Sandie Shaw, Puppet on a String. <https://eurovisionworld.com/eurovision/1967/united-kingdom>
3. Bobby's Girl, Susan Maughan. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0OdE14X3fg>
4. Big Spender, Dame Shirley Bassey. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxTrVsKOVFg>
5. Lulu, To Sir With Love. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC71t6pBi-E>
6. Dusty Springfield, I Only Want to be With You
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL7t22rypew>
7. Alma Cogan, Twenty Tiny Fingers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvAaeZAeBWk>
8. Petula Clark, This is My Song. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6te8487zsbE>
9. Helen Shapiro. Walking Back to Happiness.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMfT_8805TQ
10. Kathy Kirby, Secret Love. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQelK8C-bxl>