



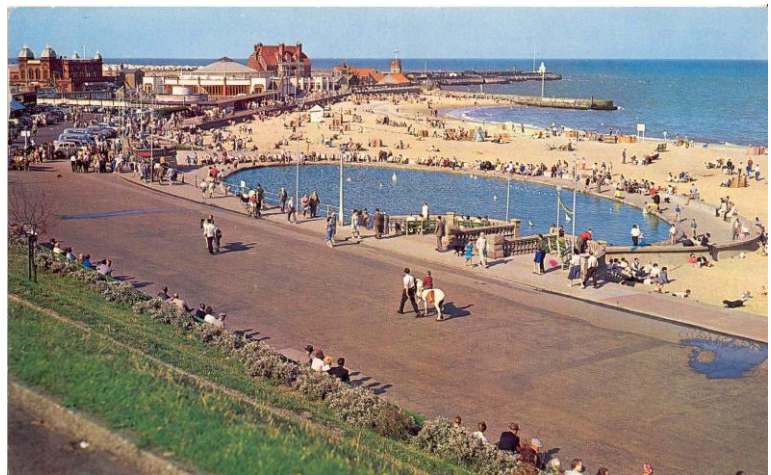
AUGUST '25 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Come Singing friends

Dear Everyone,

August is here once again!

Traditionally the time for summer holidays, as it used to be the month when the hottest weather was expected ... but not anymore! Hot weather – or extremely hot weather - happens in other months, too.



A postcard picture of Gorleston Beach in the 1970s

Here are a couple of old weather lores

*"If the first week of August be warm,
The winter will be white and long."*

*"Dry August and warm,
Does harvest no harm."*



The last lore refers to the importance of a good harvest in "olden days". In fact, the first of August was referred to as **Lammas Day** and marked the end of the growing season. It was an important Christian Holy Day in mediaeval times meaning "loaf mass". This was the day on which loaves of bread were baked using flour from the first grain harvest and were laid on church altars as harvest offerings. Lammas Day is an important date marking the run up to Harvest Festival.

In past times **Corn Dollies** were often made from the straw of the first harvest to celebrate its success. The illustration of the stamp shows one example of a corn dolly. They were fashioned according to traditional patterns, and not always representative of figures. They would be kept safely during the winter and would be buried in the spring with the sowing of the corn. This custom was believed to bring good fortune for the next harvest.

Harvest festivals gave rise to a number of well-known Harvest hymns, such as these:

We plough the fields and scatter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccVEjKfKAV4>

Come ye thankful people come: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FqdCskC0QE>

For the beauty of the earth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzIYTe8uNdY>

There are some notable anniversaries during August. Here are a few for you to think about.



Christopher Columbus sailed on his first voyage of exploration in August 1492. The names of his ships were the Nina, the Pinto and the Santa Maria. Notably, he sailed across the Atlantic reaching the Americas. They all laughed at

...<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaoxQxT2bw4>

The infamous **Great Train Robbery** occurred in August 1963. The gang stole £2.6 million, the equivalent today of over £60 million, from a Royal Mail train.

The runaway train went....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7 IMEvr9ek>



Francis Chichester set out in August 1966 in his 55-foot sailing boat Gypsy Moth 1V to attempt a single-handed journey round the world. He was knighted by the Queen for his successful voyage the following year.

Sailing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5jVsKgsPIo>

In August 1740 it was the first public performance of **Rule Britannia**. The original poem by James Thomson was set to music by Thomas Arne and has been popular ever since.

Rule Britannia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akbzRuZmqVM>

Captain Matthew Webb attempted in August 1875 to swim across the Channel from Dover. He arrived in Calais nearly 22 hours later!

Beyond the sea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc7 ICfbQP0>



The **MUSICAL QUIZ** this month stands alone, but deals with the subject of love which, perhaps you'll agree, is an enduring theme. Answers at the end.

Can you identify these songs about love?

1. Jerome Kern wrote what song with these lyrics in 1936?
"Never, never change, keep that breathless charm"
2. *Casablanca* was the famous film containing this song.
"Moonlight and love songs are never out of date"
3. From the musical *The King and I*, Marni Dixon sings for Deborah Kerr,
" All my good wishes go with you tonight. I've been in love like you"

4. In 1955 *Oklahoma* first appeared and this song became a hit.
"Don't throw bouquets at me"
5. In this song two things accompany one another.
"..... Go together like a horse and carriage"
6. This love song from *South Pacific* first appeared in the late 1940s.
"Once you have found her never let her go"
7. Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire sang and danced to this .
"The way you sing off key. Oh no,....."
8. George Formby was leaning against something and waiting when he sang this song.
"Oh me.... oh my...."
9. A traditional song telling us that the course of true love is not always smooth.
"How could you use a poor maiden so?"
10. A great thing to do on a Sunday afternoon.
"Just two of us together we'll plan a honeymoon"

During **August** you may notice the hours of daylight are very gradually beginning to dwindle, and after the busy months of summer, nature takes on a slightly slower pace. This is especially noticeable in bird activity. All through June and July birds are busy feeding and caring for their young but this activity comes to an end as their young fledge. The adult birds begin to moult and may hide away while resting and replacing feathers. Some migratory birds begin their journeys, starting with swifts returning to Africa.



The countryside can start to look a bit tired in August; tall grasses go to seed and summer flowering plants in the hedgerows dry, while the fresh greens of early summer are disappearing; even the ferns are beginning to crisp and turn rusty. In the fields some summer crops are being harvested now leaving stubble and making it easier to see any wildlife such as hares.

August is a good time to look out for heather (!). This plant prefers an acidic soil which is often found on heaths in our area. The tough evergreen leaves contrast with the carpet of pink and purple tiny bell-like flowers that appear so spectacularly this month.



Cricket

When in the countryside in August, try listening for the sounds of crickets and grasshoppers chirping. Some say they sound a bit like an old Singer sewing machine going fast! We have many species of both insects in UK. The Great Green Bush cricket is the biggest at around 5 to 7 cm long and chirps by rubbing its fore-wings together.

Crickets have long antennae whereas Grasshoppers' antennae are much shorter and their "song" is produced by rubbing their back legs on their wings.



Grasshopper



If you are near water during this month you will probably be able to spot Dragonflies and Damselflies.

Damselflies are generally smaller and have a fluttering flight with front and back pairs of wings the same size. There are many species, mostly with colourful slender bodies. The head of a Damselfly is rectangular, contrasting with the larger Dragonfly's spherical-shaped head.



Their wings differ as well, as the Dragonfly's front wings are narrower than its hind wings. Dragonflies can fly fast, up to 30 mph! The many species of Dragonflies rejoice in names such as hawkers, darters, skimmers and chasers. Good news! the presence of both damsel and dragon flies indicates good water quality.

Ralph Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* is music often associated with the month of August, though it's not explicitly about August. It was inspired by a poem about a skylark's song and was composed during the summer of 1914, just before the outbreak of World War One. The work evokes a sense of tranquillity and a nostalgic yearning for a simpler time, which is why it's often connected with the idyllic imagery of late summer. Here is a link to that piece:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZR2JIDnT2I8>

ANSWERS to the 'Love Song' quiz

1. The way you look tonight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFham2Xu6nA>
2. As time goes by <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d22CiKMPpaY>
3. Hello young lovers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsVTj6LNGFU>
4. People will say we're in love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEwVAV3VPw4>
5. Love and marriage <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRDBvKGc1fE>
6. Some enchanted evening <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ng3XJnC8IN8>
7. They can't take that away from me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuufFgAMkGE>
8. Leaning on a lamp post <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUbB1qe6BR0>
9. Early one morning <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hceIrvvbkkE>
10. Cruising down the river <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rVazVizPns>

Your contributions to future newsletters, in any form, will be very welcome. Please send them to:
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