



JULY '24 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Come Singing friends

July is the midway point of the year and the height of summer with long daylight hours. This makes it a really good month for lots of outdoor activities including picnics and eating ice creams!

Several national events take place now beginning with **The Henley Royal Regatta** which is famously both a sporting and social occasion. There are about 300 boat races held over a one mile course on the Thames at the beginning of July.



Cruising down the river: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-1_ty9HiV0



The lawn tennis championships at **Wimbledon** have already started but reach the exciting finals on 14th July. They are believed to be the oldest tennis tournament in the world and date back to 1877. Seven years later women were also admitted!

Wombles of Wimbledon song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWQMMPFtoG4>

The 19th of this month marks both the start of the **Paris Olympics** and, most importantly for music lovers, the **Proms**, first founded in 1895.

Land of hope and glory: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spx4kmY67Wc>

Music, music, music! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXYwP6PNYRA>

You can watch or listen to most of these events on TV or radio, but if you would like to enjoy a live event, you could perhaps consider going to the **Lord Mayor's Weekend** in Norwich on 13th and 14th July.



The weekend will include a carnival parade with civic dignitaries in historic costume, marching bands, acrobats and giant puppets. Local groups and organisations will be represented.

On Saturday the Lord Mayor's procession will start from the Cathedral at 3pm and go through the city centre to Chapelfield Gardens where an open air music

festival and entertainments will take place. The Great Norwich Duck race will be held on the river Wensum on Sunday to finish the weekend.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4ZipKdl1sY>

(The Seekers: *The Carnival is over*).

Watch this video for more information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqkGJF3mTWM>

Or visit <https://www.norwich.gov.uk/lmw>



Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald

These two very well known musical entertainers, who shared similar backgrounds, and whose talents enabled them to make enormous contributions to jazz, will never be forgotten.



The first, **Louis Armstrong** (1901 – 1971) nicknamed “Satchmo” (satchel mouth), was a bandleader, singer, soloist, film star, comedian as well as an ambassador for jazz, helping to develop it into a fine art.

Growing up in poverty in New Orleans, Louisiana, when jazz was in its infancy, he learned to play the cornet while in a reform home. Young Louis gained experience playing in marching bands, jazz bands and even in riverboat dance bands. He was musically talented and was soon arranging and composing as well as playing with established bands such as King Oliver’s Creole Jazz Band. It wasn’t long before he was a soloist on the trumpet and making recordings. By the late ’20s he was being recognised as a jazz innovator, especially with his skills in playing the trumpet.

Potato head Blues (1927): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeBn_TZ4lak

Touring the States and Europe with famous bands, Satchmo became well known and respected. He associated with famous musicians such as Duke Ellington, Earl Hines and Billie Holiday. His film career began in 1936 with “*Pennies from Heaven*” and extended to radio, and television in which he was admired for his good humour as well as his musical ability.. His styles of playing ranged from swing to scat (a type of jazz singing in which the singer sings sounds rather than complete words) and Dixieland, and he used inspiring and creative techniques. His rich gravelly voice was instantly recognisable and his personality ensured his fame.

Can you name these five well-known hits of his?

1. This one is about a gangster like a dangerous marine creature with white teeth.
2. Recorded in 1929, Louis claims to be on his best behaviour in this big hit.
3. In this song from a famous musical, he sings about having someone back where they belong.
4. Another early recording is about having your umbrella upside down to catch something!
5. Here he sings about where life could be so sweet....

The second famous musical entertainer is **Ella Fitzgerald** (1917 – 1996) also called the Queen of Jazz.

She grew up in Virginia USA. Like Louis Armstrong, her childhood was impoverished and difficult. By 1934 she was a homeless seventeen year-old seeking her fortune in Harlem New York.

Auditioning as a dancer at the famous Apollo theatre, she was so intimidated by a tap dancing act before her, she decided to sing instead. Her unique, velvety voice soon meant she was singing with big bands in the dance halls that were so popular at the time.



By 1935 Ella had recorded singles; a notable success being “*A tisket a tasket*”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bgFkeDLpSI>

She continued to go from strength to strength singing and recording. Ella was adept at improvising jazz and scat as well as popular music, and went on to collaborate with many famous musicians. Her voice combined “purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing and timing”.

Like Louis Armstrong, she toured, recorded and appeared on film and television. With her famous voice she became one of the most well known and prolific jazz and blues singers in popular music.

Try this mini quiz about Ella Fitzgerald’s music.

1. Recorded with Louis Armstrong and with these lyrics, “*Stars shining bright above you, night breezes seem to whisper I love you.*”
2. This is the time “*when the living is easy, fish are jumping and the cotton is high*”.
3. A special lullaby, but not for babies, you can only hear when you’re in love.
4. Another famous song which doesn’t mean anything if you don’t have a sense of swing.
5. When lovers say farewell there’s “*a change from major to minor*”.

Buttercups and daisies



These two very common wild flowers are often the first flowers we learn to recognise as children.

We believed that holding a buttercup under someone’s chin to look for a golden reflection would tell us if they liked butter! Joining daisies together in a chain made them into “jewellery” we could wear and make ourselves attractive!

Buttercups belong to the Ranunculus family and are yellow because they contain a pigment called carotenoid. These pigments specialise in reflecting the colour yellow. Buttercup petals are shiny to reflect ultraviolet light which attracts pollinating insects such as bees and beetles.



Build me up, Buttercup:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iol0B-clFFM>



Daisies (*Bellis perennis*) are abundant and long lasting and even if regarded as weeds, have a remarkable structure. Interestingly, their name may have come from the “day’s eye” referring to them opening during the day and closing at night.

They flower earlier than buttercups and can even be seen in the winter. Their yellow centre is really made up from lots of tiny disc florets, each having a single white ray floret (petal) attached.

Hence the daisy is highly suitable to use for that old French game “*He/she loves me, he/she loves me not*”!

Daisy was also used as a girl’s name. as were the names of many other flowers.

Daisy, Daisy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gDf7misJvk>

Answers to the Louis Armstrong quiz:

1. Mack the knife <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28ULUQgxJ5M>
2. Ain’t misbehavin’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ec0Es-Hdpm0>
3. Hello Dolly https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIJB_Inyazk
4. Pennies from heaven <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zceQuCS-rlk>
5. On the sunny side of the street <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn3soYbSpS4>

Answers to the Ella Fitzgerald quiz:

1. Dream a little dream of me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAZ82CkLzKs>
2. Summertime <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pdyiK5kziw>
3. Lullaby of birdland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY8zK4R9oE8>
4. It don’t mean a thing if ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myRc-3oF1d0>
5. Every time we say goodbye <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqa5kNNaMlc>

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