



JUNE '26 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Come Singing friends

Dear fellow singers,

Here we are, it's June already and we are halfway through 2026!! There's lots to celebrate this month; for a start the long daylight hours and the weather, which should be "pleasantly warm".



Official celebrations include King Charles' 78th birthday on 13th June (although he was actually born on 14th November 1948). Trooping the Colour is a great spectacle to watch on television and you can also enjoy the rousing musical accompaniment.

Military Band music from Trooping the Colour

https://www.google.com/search?q=music+from+trooping+the+colour&sca_esv=aa30526fefaab2aa&sxsrf=ANbL-n4ogv9xrWrGwv6fQ0vDs7zMzJ5TMw%3A177

Father's Day closely follows on 16th June (always on the third Sunday in June). This celebration has been adopted from an American tradition and has gained in popularity here after WW11. It was based on the idea of having a special day to honour fathers as well as one for mothers. Now it includes stepfathers and grandfathers too!

Most countries across the world recognise Father's Day, even Russia. Here it was originally celebrated as "Defender of the Fatherland Day" and has gradually evolved from a military holiday to a tribute to all men and fathers.

You may recognise this famous Puccini Aria "Oh my beloved father" sung by Joan Hammond.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vonh4vKBZGY>

Other celebrations this month include Midsummers Day on the longest day 21st June, with the earliest sunrise and the latest sunset, and sporting events like Wimbledon and Royal Ascot.



We are not the only nation to enjoy horse racing. A link to the traditional American song 'Camptown Races'. which first became popular in 1850 and celebrates the place of betting as a means of leaving the poverty trap.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSN5SdL_ohY

*"Camptown ladies sing this song, Doo-dah! doo-dah!
Camptown racetrack five miles long, Oh, doo-dah day!
I come down here with my hat caved in, Doo-dah! doo-dah!
I go back home with a pocket full of tin, Oh, doo-dah day!"*

If you were a June baby your birthstone is a pearl. Famed for its luminosity, this natural product of an oyster is a versatile stone that is said to suit everybody. It was believed by the ancient Greeks to represent the tears of joy shed by the goddess of love, Aphrodite. Pearls are a symbol of purity.

Glenn Miller's version of String of Pearls was very popular during WW2.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jg2vtWezWbw>

The sunnier skies of June might encourage us to look up and try some sky-gazing!

Sky-gazing (not star-gazing!)

We often neglect to look up to the sky and tend to be "earth-based". What we call the sky is usually thought to be the place between the ground and Outer Space. It could be described as a "sky bowl" above our heads.

Here are a few of the things you might expect to see if you look up to the sky. Natural things like clouds, rainbows, the sun, sunset and sunrise, the moon, stars and planets, lightning, rain, snow, and hail. Then there are living creatures such as birds, bats and insects. The next category might be manmade objects like aeroplanes, fireworks, parachutes, drones, space rockets etc It's a longer list than you may imagine and no doubt you could add some more. A good reason to sky-gaze!

Here's someone who did! He was born in June 1776 in Suffolk, and this month is the 250th anniversary of John Constable's birth. He is one of the most celebrated English landscape painters who was renowned for capturing light and the representation of clouds.



John Constable "The White Horse" (1819)

"I see skies of blue ..."

Louis Armstrong 'What a wonderful world'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqhCQZaH4Vs>

Music quiz for June

The music quiz this month is concerned with anything that can be seen in the sky and that has been named in a popular song.

1. A classic song by Judy Garland about somewhere that dreams coming true and bluebirds fly.
2. Lots of us shout “hip hip hooray!” too when we see this.
3. You can see many big and bright ones at night in Texas.
4. It only requires 2p, paper and string in this song from Mary Poppins.
5. In a film of 1965 “They go up tiddly up, they go ..”
6. At night the light of this can be very becoming!
7. These keep falling in ‘Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid’.
8. When is his love expected to sail back to him in this old song?
9. “With my honey I’d spoon” but when?
10. What would be in the sky when “Jimmy will sleep in his own little room again”?

Look up to see skylarks!

If you are walking in the countryside, especially in the summer, and you are near farmland or grassland, look up and listen and you will most probably see and hear a skylark. It will sound and look like this https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssEZWMsQg_8



Skylarks partner for life. The female builds a rough nest on the ground and lays three or four eggs which she incubates for about two weeks. Meanwhile the male skylark defends the territory by singing and flying above. Both adults help to feed the young for about two weeks until they can leave the nest. After this the parents continue to feed and care for their brood for another ten days until they are capable of flying.

Sadly these charismatic birds are decreasing in number mostly due to changes in agricultural practices and the increasing use of pesticides.

Skylark, a haunting tune by Johnnie Mercer, sung by Ella Fitzgerald
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbXvT68yVvk>

Look around to see Swallowtail butterflies

Norfolk is the only place in England where you can still find the rare and beautiful Swallowtail butterfly. It is large and strong flying and is best seen on hot windless days in our wetlands.



So if you are visiting the Broads this month keep a look out for butterflies. You might be lucky enough to see the UK’s largest native species of butterfly, the Swallowtail. Their size and distinctive shape make them easier to identify. Swallowtails are often seen on the Milk-Parsley plant where they like to lay their eggs. The adults only fly for about three to four weeks and they are declining as a species.



Attempts are being made by butterfly conservationists to aid their survival and recovery by planting more Milk-Parsley, and scientists are considering the possibility of freezing their eggs in liquid nitrogen to boost their numbers. A technique called cryopreservation.

Love is like a butterfly (Nana Mouskouri)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZNskxHARkk>

How much do you know about your county of Norfolk?

Unscramble these names

The counties surrounding Norfolk are **COLINLNshire**, **UFOCFKLS** and **BICAMREDGshire**.
Bordering the county to the west, north and east are areas of water, the **SAHW** and the **OTNRH ASE**.

Norfolk gets its name from the **ORNTH KOLF** who were its original inhabitants. Since then it has been part of the **NAMRO** Empire and famously the home of Queen **DIABOUC** who led a rebellion by the **CENII** tribe against their rule. **ASXNO** people and **KIVIGN** people also lived here and after 1066 there were some **NNORMAS** too. Since then there have been many others, for example the Flemish weavers in the 16th century who helped in the woollen industry. In Norwich they were known as the **ANSGERST**.



“ANSGERST” Hall, Norwich

The central area of Norfolk is mostly undulating lowland. In the east of the county are the famous **LKNORFO ADOBRS**, a network of rivers and lakes that extends into Suffolk. The West of our county contains part of the **ENFS** and the Western area contains part of **ORDTHETF forest**.

Fewer than one **LLIMINO** people live in Norfolk. People from Norfolk are sometimes called “**Norfolk SDUMPLIGN**” named after that traditional food that was enjoyed in the past.

Sky gazing quiz answers.

1. Somewhere over the rainbow (Judy Garland)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWeF5Zv_pzs
2. The sun has got his hat on (Ambrose and his orchestra)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lhPKBDrdBY>
3. Deep in the heart of Texas (Gene Autry)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe4AOhwfRq4>
4. Let's go fly a kite from 'Mary Poppins'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lXH9O94jak>
5. Those magnificent men in their flying machines (film sound track)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPgS26ZhqZs>
6. Moonlight becomes you (Bing Crosby)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUmkz95E7mw>
7. Raindrops keep falling on my head (B J Thomas)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJmDzVXCx8>
8. Red sails in the sunset (Nat King Cole)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNjhE0uXFny>
9. By the light of the silvery moon (Doris Day)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnltwkgjZlo>
10. There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover (Vera Lynn)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89487uG13Ro>

Your contributions to future newsletters, in any form, will be very welcome.

Please send them to: heatheredwards.music@gmail.com