



MAY '24 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Come Singing friends



The **Norfolk and Norwich Festival** is taking place during May. This year, as ever, it includes something for everyone. From classical concerts to pop and folk music; artist's workshops to circus performance; book launches, theatre, exhibitions, street parties, cinema, food, comedy the list is long!

Here is a rough guide to musical events you might like to know about. For more details of these and other events, go to www.nnfestival.org.uk

Sat 11	Aurora orchestra (Cathedral)
Sun 12	Organ recital (Cathedral)
Tue 14	Chaos String Quartet (Octagon chapel)
Fri 17	Compline (Cathedral)
Sat/Sun 18/19	Tea Dance (Chapelfields)

Tue 21	Scottish folk music (Cathedral)
Wed 22	Irish chamber choir (RC Cathedral)
Sat 25	Bach & Britten Sinfonia (St. Peter Mancroft)
Sun 26	Band music (Chapelfields)



The Norfolk and Norwich Festival is one of the oldest and most famous festivals in the U K. Its history can be traced back to the founding of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital in 1772

when a fund raising concert was held in the cathedral. The concert became an annual event and developed in 1788 into a four day Grand Music Festival staged in both St Peter Mancroft church and St Andrews Hall.

In 1824 the Norfolk and Norwich Triennial was founded, continuing for a century and presenting prestigious concerts in St Andrews Hall. These featured prominent composers of the day such as Elgar and Samuel Coleridge Taylor. The newly founded London Symphony Orchestra was even invited in 1905.



Sir Henry Wood

The famous Sir Henry Wood took charge of the Festival in 1908. He promoted upcoming composers such as Ralph Vaughan Williams performing and conducting their own music.

The 1936 Festival was organised by another celebrity of the times, Sir Thomas Beecham. It included music by Benjamin Britten and stars such as Kathleen Ferrier and Sir Malcolm Sargent.

By 1988 the Norfolk and Norwich Festival was well established as an annual, multi-art event. The Arts Council became responsible for the Festival in 2012 and it was developed as an opportunity for children and young people, particularly in the East of England. It is now a registered charity.

With this interesting background the Festival will attract an even larger audience of festival goers this month. You can be sure there will be something for you too!!

Doris Day (1922 – 2019)

You will all have heard of that popular singer, Doris Day, who recorded so many hits throughout her long career and whose singing and acting is still very much admired. Here is a chance to find out a bit more about her and her music.

Doris Mary Kappelhoff was born in Cincinnati Ohio of German origin. She started dancing as a child, and after breaking a leg put her out of action, she discovered that she could sing as well!. In 1939 Doris began her career as a big band singer. She soon left for her own solo career and began broadcasting on the radio.



A Sentimental Journey Recognised and acclaimed for her multiple talents she received many prestigious awards <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUw125JMVFI> was her first big hit in 1945. Following this she went on to record an amazing 650 songs in the next twenty years.

Her talent for acting was soon discovered and she became a leading Hollywood film star in the '50s and '60s. A very popular performer, she made numerous films including musicals (e.g. *Calamity Jane*), romantic comedies (e.g. *Pillow Talk* with Rock Hudson), dramas and thrillers (e.g. *The Man Who Knew Too Much* by Alfred Hitchcock). In the USA she even starred in her own TV sitcom.

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Away from show business Doris Day was particularly interested in animal welfare. In 1978 she started the Doris Day Pet Foundation a charity promoting the welfare of dogs and horses. She continued to support this throughout her life and also provided funding for it at her death aged 97. She married four times.

Can you identify some of Doris Day's most famous songs from these clues?

1. She shouted this from the highest hills and even told the golden daffodils.
2. "Our lips shouldn't touch, I like it too much". From a song and a film of the same name.
3. In translation it means "what will be, will be."
4. In this song someone took him out of her arms, so where will she see him again?
5. Another well known song where Doris sings she'd rather be "lonely than happy with someone else."
6. She loves this French city "because her love is there."
7. From the film *Calamity Jane* in 1953 "whip crack away".
8. A famous old song that begins "Picture me upon your knee".
9. It's happening again..... "what is she to do ,she never wanted to , she can't help it."
10. In this funny song from *Annie get your gun* (1950), Doris insists she is always better than the man.

Look out for low flying legs!

Have you noticed any black, shiny flies with long trailing legs recently?

They are St Mark's flies or Hawthorn flies, and get their name as they emerge around St Mark's Day on 25th April. These flies can often be spotted for a short time in early May, sometimes in large groups, with their long dangling legs. St Mark's flies are harmless and are important pollinators of fruit trees and crops. Their larvae feed on rotting vegetation and compost heaps.



Look out for wrens and long tailed tits in May.



Wrens are known to build nests in unusual places including hanging baskets and flower pots. Any where sheltered warm and quiet. Gardeners beware!

Long tailed tits' nests are carefully constructed and can take both parents around three weeks to finish. The nest is barrel shaped and made with moss, hair and cobwebs, lined with feathers and even camouflaged with lichen. Amazingly the nest is of a stretchy design which can expand to fit their families of eight to twelve chicks which fledge in

around eighteen days.

The poet John Clare (1793 – 1864) loved long-tailed tits, calling them “bumbarrels” (after their barrel-shaped nest), as in *The Bumbarrel’s Nest*:

*The oddling bush, close sheltered hedge new-plashed,
Of which spring’s early liking makes a guest
First with a shade of green though winter-dashed –
There, full as soon, bumbarrels make a nest
Of mosses grey with cobwebs closely tied
And warm and rich as feather-bed within,
With little hole on its contrary side
That pathway peepers may no knowledge win
Of what her little oval nest contains –
Ten eggs and often twelve, with dusts of red
Soft frittered – and full soon the little lanes
Screen the young crowd and hear the twitt’ring song
Of the old birds who call them to be fed
While down the hedge they hang and hide along.*



Also in May look out for ducklings, tadpoles, bluebells and hawthorn blossom and listen out for cuckoos. You may also spot the first dragonflies and early butterflies and moths this month.

Cliff Richard

Another singer who stands the test of time and is still singing is Cliff Richard. He will be 83 this year but still hasn’t retired! His real name is Harry Rodger Webb and he was born in Lucknow India in 1940. His family soon moved back to England and he grew up mainly in Surrey and Hertfordshire.



Harry first became interested in skiffle at a young age and his father gave him a guitar when he was sixteen. He began his career in music in 1958 as a rebellious rock and roll singer with his backing group the Shadows. Cliff Richard was his chosen stage name, his surname being inspired by his idol Little Richard. His career soon took off in the ‘50s and ‘60s, predating the Beatles. His big hit of 1958, *Move it with the Shadows*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5mlq3yF6Nc> has been described as the first British rock and roll song.

After that, as well as being credited with 67 top ten UK singles, he went on to make films such as *The Young Ones*, *Summer Holiday* and *Wonderful Life*. Cliff had his own TV programme, has sung in and compared the Eurovision Song Contest and appeared in Royal Variety performances. He has been one of the UK’s best selling performance artists of all time. He continues to perform and make new recordings to this day. Cliff Richards’ name is recognised across most of the world.

In 1995 he was knighted and in 2008 his autobiography was published. A confirmed bachelor, he lives in Barbados and Portugal. Cliff Richard is a committed Christian and helps raise, and regularly gives money for various charities.

How well do you know his older songs? Try these quiz questions.

1. We say this to anyone who is having a birthday, has passed an exam or is getting married.
2. In this song his girlfriend was a “crying, talking, sleeping, walking.....” what?
3. Cliff never married so he was one too until his “dying day”.
4. This group of people “shouldn’t be afraid to live and love”.
5. The Shadows big hit was named after a tribe of Red Indians.
6. It could be said everybody needs one of these for rest and relaxation.
7. “Once in a while he won’t call but it’s all.....”
8. In this love song the girl wants to know how long he will love her. He gives an impossible date!
9. Beware of this woman, she can cast spells and she’s out to get you....!!
10. Cliff and the Shadows together in this rock ‘n’ roll number are asking “do you wanna?”

Asparagus

This tasty vegetable is now in season until mid June. It is easy to prepare. Just choose the freshest you can find and wash well, especially the tips which can be gritty. Cut off any tough or woody end of the stem leaving just the delicate flavoured and tender upper part.

You can blanch or steam these for just a few minutes until just tender.

For lunch, supper or as a starter, cooked asparagus is good served with melted butter or a poached egg perhaps accompanied with brown bread and butter.

Here is a very quick easy way of serve it you may not have tried.

Prepare as above and cook until just tender. 2 to 4 minutes.
Toss with grated parmesan cheese, some olive oil and lemon zest.



Answers to the Doris Day quiz:

1. Secret Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8P_p7dB2dw
2. Move over Darling <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FodJJzQk4I>
3. Que sera, sera <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqwllifgs7KU>
4. I'll see you in my dreams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1eiHm6Peho>
5. Love me or leave me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAMY5HnL4qM>
6. I love Paris <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Od4TJYxjgk>
7. The Deadwood stage https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_xmujSyxkU
8. Tea for two <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0MtZQDItr0>
9. Falling in love again <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh1mgriavll>
10. Anything you can do https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WO23WBji_Z0

Answers to the Cliff Richard quiz

1. Congratulations https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xJcE9tnY6E
2. Living doll <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAZYet-jqR8>
3. Bachelor boy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jE_1NB8DN08
4. The young ones <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxNohANhJiA>
5. Apache <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E7oTYKGcBs>
6. Summer holiday <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYk48j-uD0g>
7. Its all in the game <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INm95FXCI5w>
8. Until the twelfth of never <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKl1LzYpbz0>
9. Devil woman <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-i2yQ4kAOM>
10. Do you wanna dance? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxHr0sVn54A>

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