



NOVEMBER '23 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Come Singing friends,

November is often thought of in the UK as a time of change from autumn to winter. Cooler air and crisper days will soon be here. It is often a time for reflection on the year past as well as an interval to prepare for the busy month that follows it.

Being nostalgic, perhaps you can remember the past when on dark chilly evenings we would gather around the open fire in our living rooms with a family pet. Stretching out our hands to warm them and perhaps seeing pictures in the flames and glowing embers. In some households the radio or television would be switched on for favourite programmes and bread, crumpets or muffins might be toasted on a long handled fork. They were smothered in real butter and enjoyed as a rare treat. Occasionally chestnuts were roasted and the smell was unforgettable.

Why not enjoy a bit of nostalgia too and treat yourself to toasted crumpets or muffins or go foraging and gather fallen sweet chestnuts? You can roast these in the oven at 200°C for about 30 minutes, preferably when you are cooking something else, but don't forget to slit the tops first or there might be an explosion!!



We can cheer ourselves in November by reflecting that there is not much gardening possible this month!

If you have appreciated the fireworks that lit up the sky on 5th November, you will be looking forward to the switching on of **Norwich Festive Lights** on Thursday 16th November. It costs nothing, but if you are in front of City Hall between 5.30 and 7.15pm you should have a great experience.

Norwich's largest Christmas Market is the **Festive Fair at the Forum** from Thursday 23rd November to Sunday 26th and is free to enter. There you can find food, gifts and everything else Christmassy.

Finally if you still need to Christmas shop this month you can go to **Norwich Showground** from November 10th to 12th (Friday to Sunday). Entry from £5 00.



LEST WE
FORGET

Traditionally, as this month progresses, we think about people who have lost their lives as a result of wars. Remembrance Day marks the actual day WW 1 ended at 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month when we commemorate those who gave their lives for their country.

On Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, we recall those people who have died in wars around the world. This day is marked by a period of silence, ceremonies and services across the UK.

Poppies were the first plants to appear on the battle fields of WW 1 and have become a symbol of remembrance.



Music and particularly popular songs played a very important role in both World Wars by keeping up the morale of both those fighting and those on the home front. Many songs of both the wars are still well known and have stood the test of time. See how many you know and can name in the two quizzes below!

WW1 Quiz

1. "There's a silver lining through the dark clouds shining"
2. Another popular song: "What's the use of worrying - it never was worthwhile"
3. Where in France are roses in full flower?
4. Which song contains these words "The Yanks are coming!"?
5. "Hoorah!" they cry, when who comes marching home?
6. Who is he waiting for at the kitchen door when the moon shines over the cowshed?
7. It's a long journey to this place in Ireland.
8. A farewell song even if "it breaks my heart to go."
9. Perhaps the most famous song in German about a lady.
10. "Brother Bertie went away to do his bit the other day" Can you name this First World War song?

WW2 Quiz

1. Who will be together again "some sunny day"
2. Don't go walking down Lover's Lane with anyone else!
3. The farmer can't "get by" without this special pie!
4. Vera Lynn is waiting for something to happen "all over the world".
5. The singer wants "lots of land under starry skies above".
6. What are they stopping for at four o'clock every afternoon?
7. Watch out for the bluebirds flying over!
8. The soldiers all love this man as he "tucks them in their little wooden beds".
9. Are you in the right frame of mind for this famous piece of music, it has no words.
10. Mother was asked to hang out her washing here!

More about the month of November ...

Thomas Hood's poem, sometimes called 'November' or simply 'No!' is a play on the word November. It seems to sum up some of the more gloomy qualities of this month, in contrast with the Christmas festivities that follow in December. Here is small part of it:



Thomas Hood
(1799 - 1845)

*No sun — no moon!
No morn — no noon —
No dawn — no dusk — no proper time of day.*

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member —
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! —
November*

After Hood's "negative" view, here's a recipe for a moist lemony cake to cheer you up!

Easy Lemon Cake

Cake ingredients

6oz /175g caster sugar
6oz /175g SR flour
6oz /175g soft margarine or butter
3 medium eggs
1 level teaspoon baking powder
Zest of 1 lemon
Approx 2 ½ fluid oz milk

To finish the cake

2 - 3 tbsps (to taste) granulated sugar
Juice of the lemon



Preheat oven to 118°C/350°F

Line a 7 - 8 inch cake tin with greaseproof paper, or use a cake tin liner.

Put all cake ingredients together and mix well (use electric beater or food processor) to produce a fairly runny cake batter.

Pour into lined tin and cook for 40 - 50 mins. Test with a skewer to see if properly cooked.

While cake is in oven, prepare the lemon syrup to finish the cake by stirring the sugar, to taste, into the lemon juice until completely dissolved.

When cake is cooked let it stand for about 5 mins then turn onto a plate.

Make about 12 holes with a skewer in top of the cake and pour the lemon syrup over it.

You can sprinkle the top with a little sugar and some lemon zest.

Nature in November

As the days get shorter you may have noticed blackbirds getting ready to roost in the evenings. They have started chasing each other round the garden and making “jink....jink” calls at dusk. Perhaps they are signalling and warning each other it’s time to roost!

There is often some activity around ivy at this time of year. This can be explained by the pale ivy berries which are high in fat and act as a “superfood” for birds. Ivy is great for nature as the blossom also provides nectar for late flying butterflies and insects such as bees and hoverflies.

November, too, brings fungi which can amaze us with some weird and wonderful shapes.



Tree Bracket fungus



Fly agaric



Orange peel fungus



Morel

One strange fungus is the Collared Earthstar. They live under leaf litter near woodlands, as vast numbers of threads called hyphae forming a network underground. This time of the year they erupt as onion shaped fungi which quickly split to show a central dome. The slightest touch, such as rain, releases the dust like spores inside to begin a new generation.



Collared earthstar *Geastrum triplex*



The special sycamore tree at Hadrian’s wall was in the news recently when vandals cut it down. It was thought to have been planted about 130 years ago and is a great loss as a unique landmark. Experts think it can be coppiced and will grow again.

Ash trees have become scarcer recently due to Ash Dieback disease. It is a tall domed tree which comes into leaf late and drops its leaves early in autumn. We can recognise it by the ‘helicopters’ or winged seeds

properly called samaras. At this time of year the ash bears large copper coloured bunches of seeds called ‘keys’. The seeds inside are loved by bullfinches, and wood mice gather them when they fall. Ash timber is very strong and ideal for tool handles was well as oars, skis and flooring.



A little light relaxing music to enjoy.

Eric Coates (1886 – 1957) is sometimes referred to as “the father of British light music”. He was interested in music as a young boy and trained at the Royal Academy of Music studying the viola. He played this regularly in the orchestra of Henry Wood (the founder of the Proms) for a while, but soon realised his real interest lay in writing music. There are two reasons given for the end of his viola playing career: one was that Henry Wood “gave him the sack” and the other was that he developed a painful condition in his hand.



Eric had a talent for writing memorable melodies and the development of radio and television during his life time meant that his music was widely heard and became very popular. He wrote songs as well as orchestral music. His son Austin described what an orderly man he was who couldn't compose without being properly dressed with tie and Harris tweed suit!

Here are links to some of the better known pieces for you to enjoy.

The Dam Busters March used in the famous film was one of his compositions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKKkfbm-C44>

His London Suite was used as the theme tune for the programme 'In Town Tonight' from 1933 to 1960.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHuRXGN9_0

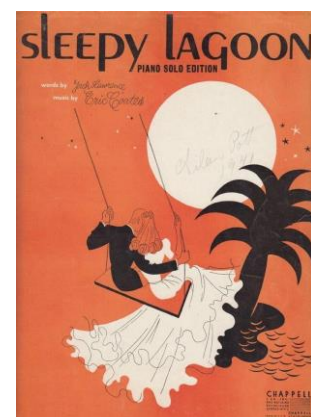


During World War 2 he boosted the morale of workers with the tune for 'Calling All Workers'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP1Ch1FVGhs>

Coates also wrote 'By the Sleepy Lagoon' which is still the signature tune of Desert Island Discs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gK-byzdp-DQ>



The popular television serialisation of 'The Forsyte Saga' in 1967 was opened and closed with his Halcyon Days music from the Three Elizabeths Suite.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3sylhzyOac>

Answers

WW1 Songs Quiz

1. Keep the home fires burning (John Mc Cormack)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgXl5QnKdCk>
2. Pack up your troubles
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEkuUJ1-Qvg>
3. Roses are blooming (Richard Tauber)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NNN6Gzv-vQ>
4. Over there
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=921z4LAHvak>
5. When Tommy comes marching home
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLFn6scSp20>
6. K K K Katy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAAkrl-aaOE>
7. It's a long way to Tipperary (John Mc Cormack)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVM-tFAdADg>
8. Good bye Dolly Gray
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcR991-Co1I>
9. Lili Marlene
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7heXZPI2hik>
10. Good bye
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVavtX80m3Q>

WW2 Songs Quiz

1. We'll meet again
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsM_VmN6ytk
2. Don't sit under the apple tree
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcyiC79I910>
3. Run rabbit run
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXmk8dbFv_o
4. When the lights go on again
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwwN3KPft1Q>
5. Don't fence me in
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMnLoOnrwbG>
6. Everything stops for tea
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGQASun9d8E>
7. White cliffs of Dover
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAaxkAgVkhQ>
8. Kiss me goodnight Sergeant Major
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BxsJKDWEwE>
9. In the Mood (Glen Miller)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Cl-0E_jses
10. Hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgXyVL7KgAY>

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