



## NOVEMBER '24 NEWSLETTER

### Greetings to all Come Singing friends

Dear Everyone,

November 5<sup>th</sup> celebrations are over and the nights are really dark. If you look into the sky on a clear night you will probably be able to see the stars and the moon, despite the artificial light which can obscure them in built up areas. Parts of North Norfolk are designated as Dark Sky Reserves where there is little artificial light or pollution and these are good places to view the night sky.

Some may be able to identify a few of the brightest planets, like Venus, Mercury, Saturn, Mars or Jupiter by their position in the sky. We know there are seven planets and a useful way of remembering them in their right order is this mnemonic  
“**M**y **V**ery **E**xcellent **M**other **J**ust **S**erved **U**s **N**oodles”



The planets have been an inspiration for music. One of the best known pieces is Holst's *The Planets*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Isic2Z2e2xs>

The movements are: 1 **M**ars bringer of wars 2 **V**enus bringer of peace 3 **M**ercury the winged messenger 4 **J**upiter bringer of jollity 5 **S**aturn bringer of old age 6 **U**ranus the magician 7 **N**eptune the mystic. Holst did not include a movement for the planet Earth.



The stars are grouped in recognisable patterns called constellations. These are named after their shapes or mythological figures. Earth is in the galaxy called the Milky Way which also contains the whole of our solar system. We are in fact made of stardust as most of the elements in our bodies were made in the stars billions of years ago!

**Astronomy** is the scientific study of everything in the universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere. This includes objects we can see with our eyes, the sun and moon, the stars and planets, as well as far away galaxies and tiny particles.

In our lifetime the boundaries of astronomy are being pushed further and further. Probes are exploring the Solar system; the James Webb solar telescope, now over a million miles away, is sending images back to Earth; and a lunar space station is being built to help send humans to Mars.

**Did you know?**

- 1 The number of stars in the Milky Way is probably greater than all the human beings who have ever lived.
- 2 Over a million Earths could fit inside the Sun.
- 3 The moon is actually shaped like a lemon.
- 4 If you could fly on a plane to Pluto it would take over 800 years.
- 5 There are billions of other galaxies in the Universe.

After all this mind-blowing information here is a little light relief!

Many people enjoy reading their "stars" or horoscopes.

**Astrologists** believe that the movements of the sun, moon, planets and stars as seen from Earth have an influence on our lives. They believe that their positions at the time of your birth affect your personality, and day-to-day events in your life. This can be read as your horoscope, but there is no scientific evidence to prove it.

These are the **Signs of the Zodiac**. What is yours?

If you were born on or between

March 21<sup>st</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>

April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>

May 21<sup>st</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>

June 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>

July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>

August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>

September 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>

October 24<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>

November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>

December 22<sup>nd</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>

January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>

February 19<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>

your sign is **Aries** the Ram.

**Taurus** the Bull.

**Gemini** the Twins

**Cancer** the Crab

**Leo** the Lion

**Virgo** the Virgin

**Libra** the Scales

**Scorpius** the Scorpion

**Sagittarius** the Archer

**Capricorn** the Goat

**Aquarius** the Water Carrier

**Pisces** the Fish



Each Zodiac sign has a symbol and each sign is said to be linked to a type of personality. Do they fit you or anyone you know?



<b>Aries</b>	bold, adventurous and competitive.
<b>Taurus</b>	creative, strong and dependable.
<b>Gemini</b>	outgoing, confident and kind.
<b>Cancer</b>	intuitive, compassionate and protective.
<b>Leo</b>	confident, cheerful and dramatic.
<b>Virgo</b>	perfectionist, organised and loyal.
<b>Libra</b>	empathetic, indecisive and fair minded.
<b>Scorpio</b>	intense, stubborn and resourceful.
<b>Sagittarius</b>	spontaneous, optimistic and generous.
<b>Capricorn</b>	serious, independent and disciplined.
<b>Aquarius</b>	philosophical, detached, imaginative.
<b>Pisces</b>	romantic, optimistic and wise.

Traditionally linked with the months are the birthstones.

What's your birthstone? ...

Early astrologers believed each gemstone brought healing powers or protection from evil. That is why we still call them birthstones today.

..... However, don't forget what Dame Shirley Bassey tells us (!), *Diamonds are forever*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kxgcGvJwEw>



The **Music quiz** is based loosely on songs about the sky at night. Can you name them?

1. You can put one in your pocket if you can catch it.
2. Frankie Vaughan wanted this for the girl he loved "and leave the rest to me" .....
3. Where are "the stars at night big and bright"?
4. Where does Frank Sinatra want to fly?
5. The Beatles sang about someone in the sky but who?
6. Stevie Wonder sang "You are the ----- of my life".
7. Mama Cass mentioned these shining up above her in which popular song?
8. A film and a song with the same name about a river.
9. Jim Reeves in the 1960s sang "----- and roses" brought "wonderful mem'ries of you".
10. Creedence Clearwater warned about the weather in the eighties, "Don't go around tonight".

After all those questions and mind searching perhaps a small treat would be appropriate!

Parkin is sticky and spicy, improves with keeping and was traditionally made in early November to coincide with the oat harvest.

## Yorkshire Parkin recipe

(Enough for 6 to 8 people.)

110g butter	110g soft dark brown sugar
55g black treacle	200g golden syrup
225g oats	110g SR flour
2 tsp ground ginger	1 tsp mixed spice
2 eggs lightly beaten	20ml milk



1. Preheat oven 160C/ 140C fan/gas mark 3 and line a 2lb loaf tin with baking parchment.
  2. Place a saucepan over a medium heat and gently melt together the butter, sugar, black treacle and golden syrup. Leave to one side to cool.
  3. Mix the oats, flour, ginger and mixed spice in a large bowl, stir in the cooled syrup mixture then then the eggs and milk.
  4. Pour the mixture into the lined loaf tin and bake for 60 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.
- When cool keep in an airtight container. Can be enjoyed spread with butter or warmed with custard.

## ANSWERS to quiz

1. Catch a falling star (Perry Como) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= VJIHWESyLI>
2. Give me the moonlight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilo83LRCJrE>
3. Deep in the heart of Texas (Gene Autry)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BLDEx88BWM>
4. Fly me to the moon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEcqHA7dbwM>
5. Lucy in the sky with diamonds [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_yMaeTdWIY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_yMaeTdWIY)
6. You are the sunshine of my life <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp6hzycBsTI>
7. Dream a little dream of me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8I5vDewcZo>
8. Moon river (Audrey Hepburn) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73CSB08Y3is>
9. Moonlight and Roses <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GKXH1xIwbo>
10. Bad moon rising <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKJwvQfraY8>

**Your contributions to future newsletters, in any form, will be very welcome. Please send them to:**  
[heatheredwards.music@gmail.com](mailto:heatheredwards.music@gmail.com)