

Dates For Your Diary

Please put these dates into your diary:

'Last Night of the Croydon Proms'

27th September 2014

Fairfield Halls

Croydon

Christmas Concert

13th December 2014

United Reformed Church

Caterham

Easter Concert

28th March 2015

Sacred Heart Church

Caterham

Summer Concert

27th June 2015

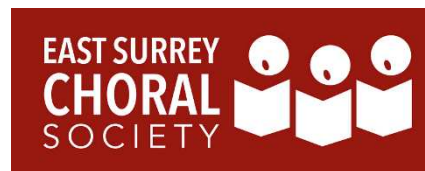
Woldingham Village Hall

Woldingham

Don't forget first rehearsal of the term is Tuesday, 9th September!

Please direct any feedback, comments or suggestions to:

George Feichter, email: george@escs.org.uk



NEWSLETTER

2014

www.escs.org.uk

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have. Whether it is Rosie sitting neatly and confidently on the morning paper or Oscar fascinated by my brushing my teeth before he can drink running water from the tap, they make my house a home.

~~~ oOo ~~~

**From Marion Davies:**

### **MONKY BUSINESS**

Those of you who know me may be surprised to learn that I got up to some Monky Business! No, I do know how to spell, and I do mean Monky without an E.

In June, my guitar and I spent an exciting day playing in an ensemble with sixty other guitarists. We practised under the composer's baton and then performed the piece he wrote especially for the day. The story line went something like –

Matins - [too] early morning prayer. A slow chant accompanied by our own sleepy voices ah ah ah.ing.

Meditation – to work or to pray?

Dinner bell. Allegro, hurry along, join the dance.

Legato – settle down now, remember you are monks.

Isn't music fun?

Marion Davis

allowed on the table?".

Rosie (smaller by over a kilo) was initially bolder at exploring things, although rather gingerly as if she could imagine some unfortunate consequences. Ollie/Oscar seemed too laid back to worry about such things and explored more confidently (after she had done so!) She sat on my knee when he was busy elsewhere and immediately moved and gave way to him if he arrived on the scene and remembered he also wanted a hug. Perhaps there were more people in their previous home.

Oscar was clearly the larger personality, and the dominant one. But what was his name? Rollo? Magnus? Giles? Charlie? George? Titus? Gustav? etc. No. Oscar.

Three years have passed and they now have me fully trained. At night Rosie now sleeps downstairs and Oscar (partial to snoozing on top of the grandfather clock (unwound) during the day) often joins me for a reassuring cuddle as soon as I go to bed then dashes off for some nefarious expedition returning about 3.00am to request a snack. I have trained **him not** to bite me in pursuit of this objective, but get up and provide the vital sustenance (and the increasingly portly Rosie is not going to be left out) and then he needs another cuddle, purring, "puddling" licking my face and *smiling*. Then he has had enough jumps off and sleeps somewhere in my room. Sometimes one or both provide a wakeup call (at a civilised hour). And I thought broken nights ended when my children were two years old.....

Rosie remains always affectionate and chirrup when petted, although she is the only cat I have had who is a trifle *clumsy* and Oscar too needs regular affection, although I doubt he would confess to such. They are always keen to offer assistance (supervision?) in using the computer, doing the crossword, reading, knitting, sewing, gardening and have no more enthusiasm for housework than I

## Chairman's report:

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, here we are at the end of our season with another happy year of singing behind us, and the summer holidays ahead. Let's hope we have a summer after a strange year of a winter with hardly any frost, and floods that almost had Tree marooned in her lovely house in Woldingham!

As ever, the year seems to have flown by (is that a sign of age?), and looking back it has been a splendid one. Our Christmas concert was a great success, our Easter concert (according to Della and others) was our best ever and, as I write, we are looking forward to a Summer one which is going to be great fun for choir and audience alike. Did anyone else wake up in the morning with "I've got no strings...." whizzing round their brain? I hope I get better soon!

Seriously though, all the above wouldn't be possible without a huge input from everybody. It's always a team effort. Ian's tireless enthusiasm and Richard's sense of humour (does he know that the piano actually shakes with his laughter?) make rehearsals great fun. We have a committee who all give 200% of themselves and make my job as Chairman a real pleasure. A huge "thank you" to you all, and especially to Gill and Jane. They put in so much work behind the scenes, and their efforts at getting us all fund-raising have meant that for the first time that I can remember, we have not only broken even, but have made a profit on an orchestral concert. Brilliant! As for the "Dynamic Duo" being unleashed on a quiz and fish and chip supper – well, it was bound to be a success, wasn't it? A marvellous evening was had by all,

and another one is already booked for February next year. Thank you again, and also to all of you who are not on the committee but still work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the choir. We couldn't do without you.

Lots to look forward to this coming season – the Last Night of the Croydon Proms, skittles, the Purcell Club tour of Westminster Abbey and the Messiah Part I at Christmas just to name a few! It only remains for me to wish you all a healthy and happy summer break, and to say that I look forward to seeing you all (in excellent voice of course!) in September.

Mel Watts-Read

The occupant of the next cage was complaining loudly. Apparently a mouse had come through the netting and as this trophy had been removed its conqueror was annoyed. Clearly the smell of (cat) food was greater for the mouse than the consideration that 30 or so bored cats faced with a moving and edible target was only going to have one outcome.

They would be mine in two days. Driving home I thought of T S Eliot's poem "The naming of cats". I liked neither Ollie nor Zöe as names, but what should they be? Before I reached home Zöe had become Rosie but what about Ollie? Is he actually Oscar? Perhaps his name would come when I had them home.

Three weeks later and they had made the place their own. My bed, rather than theirs was obviously **the** place to sleep and after supervised outdoor play they were happy in the garden and venturing next door through holes in the hedge. Cat-flap lessons were the next step. Post a pussy was not popular, what was I there for but to open the back door? Holding the flap open by use of a piece of string tied to the door-handle was a failure, because Ollie/Oscar knew string was for biting and in 30 seconds had put paid to that idea. So I went out to get my newspaper leaving them outside. When I returned, there they were, relaxed enough to not bother to get to their feet as I opened the front door with expressions that clearly said it all – Of course we know about cat-flaps and that you would come back and how about some elevenses?

Both were talkative and realised I understood the difference between "Where have you been?", "Where is my breakfast" (and if you don't get up **now** I shall a) knock over the alarm clock and/or b) lie on my back under the bed, dig my claws into the underneath and zoom around polishing my fur on the carpet), "I need a hug now", "Pesky magpies!" and "What do you mean I'm not

**From Jane Tiernan:**

### **Not Runcible with Crimson Whiskers – but Tabby**

I let a suitable interval lapse after my cat Sophie died. A friend working for the Cats' Protection League had regularly offered me suitable candidates for adoption, but none seemed right.

Then came news of a brother and sister whose previous owners had emigrated to America. They were 2 ½ years old, house-trained, neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated. They had clearly been much loved and suffered no ill-treatment. They were affectionate **and** tabby – my favourite design.

The word tabby comes from the French “tabis” meaning watered silk. This in turn is derived from the Arabic al-attabiya, the quarter of Baghdad where tabis was manufactured. Tabbies have also escaped human interference and so remain a hardy breed.

These two were temporarily in a cattery. After a home visit to “vet” (!) **me**, would I like to visit? The cages for all the cats were along either side of a shady garden with a well kept lawn with flower beds. At the back of their unit were two shelves each with a box with a warm blanket in. Ollie (on the top shelf) was sitting up and washing and Zöe was sitting beside her big brother's box on “his” shelf. Since he was busy I let her sniff my fingers first. Almost immediately she started to purr and lick my fingers. Then Ollie decided he would like a bit of the action – no finger licking – just a nose shoved under my hand to direct it towards stroking his head. A quick eye-contact and he decided I was harmless – and returned to his washing. Zöe resumed licking my fingers.

**Secretary's report:**

It is heart warming to look back on a year of successful concerts with good and appreciative audiences. Ian's programming ensured that the choir enjoyed rehearsing and performing and it also ensured that people wanted to come and hear us! The Novello, Flanders and Swann and Disney compilations were fun to sing and went down well with the audience, the only problem being as Mel says, we are still being haunted by the catchy words and tunes!

We are really fortunate at East Surrey in that we have a lively and enthusiastic committee to keep us on an even keel. Two new committee members are our librarians, Jean Burns Thomas (also a very talented water colour artist) and Sue Anderson, who have seamlessly carried on Cainwen's good work. They are efficient and cheerful and an asset to the committee.

I would like to thank all choir members who have supported our fund raising efforts. By raising £2,000 for the Orchestra Fund, we



actually made a profit on our orchestra concert - unheard of previously! Now we start all over again for our concert in 2016. Our bottle collection was very successful, so we shall carry on with that. It is amazing how quickly all our small change adds up over 2

years. The largest sum made came from the Quiz/Fish and Chip Supper. This was the first time we have undertaken one of these and we will be running another next year. Jane and I really en-

joyed planning it and it is a happy social occasion for the choir. The Fund was greatly increased by several generous donations which were much appreciated. However, we cannot rely on receiving any more in the future, so we have to think of new ideas of enjoyable ways of making money! Jane and I would be very grateful for any ideas you may have - or would you like to organise something yourself? Regarding choir funds, please do think about Gift Aiding your subscription if you have not already done so and are a tax payer. It doesn't affect your personal finances at all and the choir can recoup 25% of each sub back from the taxman! At this point I would also like to reinforce our thanks to Joan Ferrison for carrying on making marmalade to swell our funds, even though her sight is not as good as it was. She loves the rose 'Lady Marmalade' that we gave her and it has been flowering beautifully!

I hope that all of you who are online have visited our new website. It was revamped by George, Mel and her daughter Sarah who put in many hours developing it. George's friend Shona, a graphic designer created the finished product. We are so grateful to all those involved and are very happy with the result. When sending out emails to various choirs for the workshop, Mel and I realised that our website was outstanding compared with many of the others!

We all had a really excellent summer party at Angela and Geoff Smith's beautiful home, even though we had to travel through hell and high water to get there - thunder and lightning too! I was impressed that everyone turned up - in fact we had 47 people altogether. Poor Angela had to cope with masses of wet umbrellas and waterproofs but she survived and the food, drink (thank you Jane and crew) and company were excellent as usual. It was great to see Cainwen and Keith there enjoying

#### **From Jennifer Burnett:**

"Are not we Fortunate!"

As a relative newcomer to the choir, I cannot believe my good fortune.

No longer in the first flush of youth, I had thought that my singing days were over, but a chance remark from a friend encouraged me to look for a choir. I attended a workshop, and survived and bravely decided to travel north of the M25 to Caterham. A choir with no audition was an added inducement. Imagine my delight at finding a friendly choir with an inspirational musical director. Where else could I find such experience and enthusiasm, and an inexhaustible supply of accents and anecdotes...I might turn up just for those!

I joined the choir just as Jeffery was leaving and doubted the choir could find a suitable replacement, but then along came Richard who amply filled the gap, how lucky was that, another superb professional with a quirky sense of humour. The choir has its own idiosyncracies. I wait every Tuesday for a comment from Barry, a question from John, and a sneeze from Colin (no offence meant), and where else can you get "Massages" with coffee at half-time and a jar of marmalade? We also have free Welsh, French and Japanese lessons so all good value for our subscription. But most of all is the pleasure of singing with a group of like-minded people, learning new music and re-visiting familiar favourites, and to go home revived by all those endorphins, and looking forward to the next rehearsal, even if we couldn't have the "Humming chorus" in a lower key!

look at first! The musicals Miss Saigon, The King and I and Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat were stunningly represented, as were the classics such as Mozart's Laudate Dominum, Elgar's Wand of Youth, Swan Lake and Wagner's Lohengrin. I was



particularly interested in Lohengrin as Sachiko had spent many hours making the sword used in the exhibit, which you will see in the photograph. The whole display stood out as having perfect attention to detail and the quality of the work and the imagination used was amazing.

A unique iris was launched at The Chelsea Flower Show this year to commemorate the Festival. It was grown by the French specialist, Richard Cayeux and named 'Cathedrale de Chichester'. It's petals have a glorious mixture of red, blue, yellow and white which look as though the colours have been painted with fine brush strokes.

While I was in Chichester I went to see Sue and Karle Simpson in their new (old!) home. It was lovely too see them again and with their usual hospitality they made me feel at home straight away. 'The Candle House' is a wonderful Grade II listed cottage within the city perimeter. It has a walled garden which is beautifully planted out, so Sue is in her element! It is situated within walking distance of every amenity, even the theatre and Sue's choir. Priory Park is just across the road.

All in all it was a lovely day to remember for a long time to come.

themselves too. Thank you so much Angela and Geoff for letting us invade your home!

It is lovely to have Cainwen back home from hospital in her own home and it is also much easier to visit her. I am really grateful to those who made the regular trips to Stanmore to see and support her, especially Della who is so busy with work up and down the country. I am encouraging Cainwen to come back to choir in September - just for the first half of rehearsals - as it will cheer her up to be with friends and also exercise her lungs!

As you know, Messiah Part 1 rehearsals start on September 9th. If you are not sure of the notes, please use rehearsal aids such as You Tube or Choraline CDs for example. We are part of a team being in this choir, and we must take responsibility for our own learning - which I know a lot of you do already. Sorry about banging on about this, but rehearsals are so much more constructive and fun if we have prepared in advance!

I can't close without mentioning Richard and Ian. Richard is a marvellous and versatile musician with a great sense of humour and we are lucky to have him as our accompanist. He is eminently capable of taking rehearsal if Ian is away. Ian always surprises me in that he can take a choir, a large proportion of whom are not able to read music, and produce a performance (often quite complex to sing) at the end of term that is well received from all attending! Long may his humour, enthusiasm and patience continue!

Well, I feel sure that our new choir year will be as busy and successful as 2013/2014 and look forward to meeting up with you all on September 9th. Meanwhile, have a great summer break!

Gill English

## Treasurer's Report:

The current resources comprise:

|                                    | £         |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash at COIF                       | 13,590.00 |
| Lloyds                             | 1,060.00  |
| Bottle collection                  | 61.00     |
| Total cash                         | 14,711.00 |
| Gift aid final repayment this year | 43.00     |
| @15th July, 2014                   | 14,754.00 |
| @31st August, 2013                 | 13,296.00 |
| Increase in resources              | 1,458.00  |

Provisional figure per last year's Newsletter was £13,018 - further sums were received after publication.

There are no unpaid invoices outstanding. I intend to file the final gift aid claim this year in July so the final repayment should be credited direct to our Lloyds account by 31st August, 2014.

Our improved resources this year came from an overall surplus on concerts, gift aid repayments up by £408 to nearly £1,400, members subs have increased by £1,308 with most new members paying under gift aid and Friends subs have increased by £100 to £400. Against these improvements there have been in-

## From Gill English:

### To all you Family History Buffs!

Reigate and Redhill U3A Family History Groups have invited Dr. Nick Barrett to come to speak on Thursday September 4th at 1.30 for 2.00pm at Reigate Park Church, Park Lane East, RH2 8BD. His talk is entitled 'Family History and the Media' and the cost is £5.00 - you can buy a ticket on the door or I will send you how ever many tickets you need. Nick works behind the scenes on the programme 'Who do You Think You Are?' and is known for being an entertaining speaker. There is already a small contingent going from ESCS and it would be great if some more of you would like to come. You do not need to be a member of a U3A group.

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At the end of May, I visited Chichester Cathedral for the 10th anniversary of their biennial Festival of Flowers. The theme was 'The Music Makers' and the arrangements interpreted a wide range of music styles from 12 centuries. They included plainsong, sacred and secular, classics, jazz and pop! More than 500 volunteers, in-

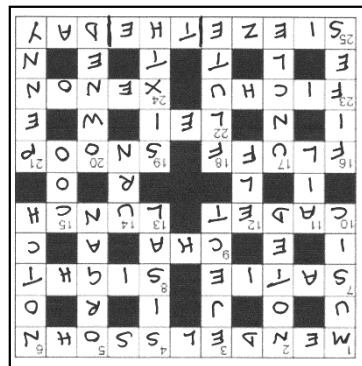


cluding 250 arrangers were involved in the festival, so you can imagine how impressive the interior of the cathedral appeared.

When I entered the main door, I was overwhelmed by the colours and scent which filled the air and it was difficult to know what to



My paternal grandfather had been a territorial officer since 1911. He was a member of the Works Companies Durham (Fortress Engineers) Royal Engineers. He was mobilised and reported to the War Office for briefing soon after the outbreak of war and with one other colleague was posted to the Western Front and attached to a line division. He was later gassed but survived the war, dying young as a result of his experiences. I have his cigarette case, a gift from his Masonic Lodge in "Grateful thanks for active war service, 1914-1919". Of course, the armistice began on 11 November 1918 but the peace Treaty of Versailles which ended the state of war between Britain and Germany was signed on 28 June 1919. I also have his medals and sword which my father wore as a serving officer from World War 2 until his retirement in 1970. Although I too was a serving officer from 1972-1978 I never needed to wear the sword!



creases in the cost of rehearsal fees and venues etc.

These figures are broad movements in resources. Final accounts to 31st August, 2014 have yet to be prepared but I am expecting them to reflect the figures shown above which indicate financial strength. However, we need to control expenses in future if we are to maintain a strong financial position.

Michael Pearce

**A GARDEN DAY**

Tree's Garden Day is on Sunday, 14th September, from 2.00 to 4.30pm, at Little Foxes, Northdown Road, Woldingham, CR3 7BD.

This is a lovely social occasion. For £4.00 you get to see the garden, enjoy a cream tea, and have a chance to meet other choir members in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you have any plants to sell, bring them along, as all monies raised will go to the orchestra fund.

Let's hope it's a beautiful day.

### From Barry Weedon:

Being senile, I've forgotten the requirements for articles in the summer newsletter, as enumerated by Gill (I think it was) in course of a parish notice at a recent rehearsal. I seem to recall that the general idea was that it should be amusing or, at least entertaining, but for the life of me I can't remember if it ought also to be relevant to the ESCS. I hope not, since, of course, it's very hard to think of anything amusing or entertaining to write about people so ardently and solemnly dedicated to the service of the Muse Euterpe. [Yes – I admit that I found her name via Google, since you ask].

Anyway, it's not as easy to write anything amusing or even entertaining as an expert like me may, to the uninitiated, make it seem. However, I do seem to recall that Gill (if it was Gill) suggested that the article might be about something that had happened to one, something topical, maybe. Was she thinking of that essay we had to write at school, "What I did in the hols"? Perhaps. But that did little to widen the scope of subjects open to me, since the only thing of any interest at all that happened to me in the past ten years or so, thereby having some claim to qualify as topical, is being diagnosed with an alarming condition. "Scarcely amusing or even entertaining!" I hear you protest. And you may well find yourself justified in doing so, on reading the following. It is one of few examples of comic verse (if not the only one ever written) concerning cancer. For its title, I paraphrased that of Dick van Dyke's comedy murder TV series.

small change. This could have been because experience during the Franco Prussian War told them the price of metals, particularly copper, rises during warfare. Later in the war there was a great need for copper for ammunition in Britain. Worn line engraving plates of William Hogarth's satirical prints were collected and melted down for the war effort.



Territorial troops leaving Reigate 4.8.1914 on mobilisation ©Sean M. Hawkins

### WWI Anecdotes from My Own Family

My maternal grandfather was in a Scottish regiment and went to war in the kilt. The men hated these in the trenches. In winter they absorbed muddy water, slapping against the legs and causing chapping. In summer they dried out but the dry mud was sharp lacerating their legs. When the kilt was replaced with trows they were extremely thankful although there was an outcry back in Britain.

British holiday makers on the continent were treated very badly. They couldn't get money because of the bank closures so hotels and boarding houses wouldn't feed them and threw them out on the street. This is exactly what happened to UK visitors in the USA immediately after 9/11.

The Treasury issued £5.5 million in gold to the banks and at the same time published £1 and 10 shilling notes to replace gold sovereigns and half sovereigns and remove them from circulation.

The Government was forced to agree to insure merchant vessels because underwriters would no longer do so and therefore no ships were going to sea. The cost of staple foods doubled within a day as people began to stockpile. By the end of the year, prices had risen eightfold. Rationing did not begin until 1918 as a result of U boat activity.

On 4 August the Society of Friends in East Surrey published anti-war posters.

Men were only accepted into the forces if they were at least 5ft 3ins with a 34 inch chest although a blind eye was often turned to the latter on the basis that, "The lad will soon fill out". The height requirement was raised to 5ft 6in for a while but had to be dropped again as fewer men came forward at the recruiting offices. It was even suggested the height could be dropped to 5ft 0in as they would make smaller targets and needed shallower trenches!

In East Surrey some local dentists agreed to treat men with bad teeth in the hope they would become fit enough to be taken into the forces. Later dentists agreed to give free treatment to the families of serving soldiers.

In Germany, coins vanished almost completely from circulation as shopkeepers, bakers, grocers, dairymen and tradesmen hoarded

## Diagnosis Cancer

Not so long ago  
I was feeling rather low;  
My bladder trouble wouldn't go away.  
I was tested for infection  
But the cause escaped detection,  
And my GP said, "We'll check your PSA."  
  
So they siphoned off some blood,  
Where they found abnormal crud,  
But the GP said, "You mustn't let it faze yer;  
The chance is one in three  
That it indicates Big C,  
But more likely it's just Old Man's Hyperplasia.  
  
"We need another test.  
A biopsy would be best –  
But don't worry – you should hardly feel a thing."  
Though they gave an anaesthetic,  
Its effect was quite pathetic:  
Those sample-coring needles don't half sting!  
  
Well, the surgeon told me, "Nine  
Of your samples were just fine,  
But Number Ten was not exactly grand.  
You probably won't thank me,  
But I'd better tell you frankly:  
You've a low-grade cancer in your prostate gland."

Since then, further tests have found  
That it hasn't spread around,  
So it seems I may be luckier than some.  
And the radiation cure  
Should be child's-play to endure

For a chappie who's had ten pricks up his bum.

So, despite some baddish breaks,  
I've discovered that it takes  
No more energy to smile than to frown.  
If they find an early tumour,  
Try to keep your sense of humour –  
And never let the bugger get you down.

Given the international situation, as I see it, the only good news of recent times is that the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games are over for another year or two.

So I look to the UK for inspiration. By the time you read this, you may know whether those initials are to stand for what they have done since 1707, or – as Alex Salmond would have it – the Untied Kingdom. I lived in Scotland for some years, and once, as New Year approached, a Scotsman asked me to write a poem about his country. I did, and read it at a Hogmanay party. To their great credit, the Scots loved it. You'll see what I mean by 'to their great credit', when you read:

### **Hogmanay Hangover**

**(Or - If you twist my arm, a Gordon's for me)**

When the good Lord created bonnie Scotland  
It's hard to fathom out his state of mind;  
He made lochs and braes and heather -  
Then he made the bonnie weather -  
So perhaps he wasn't feeling very kind.

He made a land of wondrous natural beauty -  
Royal Deeside, Glen Morangie, Cowdenbeath -

**From Angela Smith:**

### **World War I Snippets**

Many people were taken completely by surprise by the declaration of war on 4 August 1914 because there wasn't the media coverage of world affairs that there is now. Once war started the demand for newspapers increased and three times as many were printed as before. Unfortunately journalists were not allowed at the front. This probably resulted in the gap between what the public knew of conditions and the reality in the trenches.

On 31 July 1914 the main topic discussed by Reigate Council was where to site their first public loos! The Surrey Mirror was more concerned about the diocesan boundary between Mombasa and Zanzibar.

European finances were in chaos in July 1914 and panic caused the collapse of many stock markets with millionaires being bankrupted. In Britain we were proud this would never happen to us. Wishful thinking! On Monday 27 July there was a run on gold with collapse of confidence and consols (government bonds) fell to their lowest level ever recorded. Credit vanished and so brokers had no control over capital. By 10 am the stock market was temporarily closed, something which had never happened before. As a result on 3 August the Government was forced to suspend the right to demand repayment of debts until the end of the war. (Postponement of Payments Bill) The stock market didn't open again until 4 January 1915 and then only under stringent restrictions. Trading was by cash only.

On Friday 31 July the bank rate rose from 4% to 8% and again to 10% by the next day. It was Bank Holiday weekend so the Government extended the closure of the banks until Thursday 6 August.

**Here are the lyrics she used:**

*(Why not sing them yourself..... and empathise??!!)*

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favourite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

A land of milk and honey -  
But a trifle short of money -  
So he kindly tacked on England underneath.

To enjoy this land the good Lord made the Scotsman,  
With bristly knees, a sporran and a dirk.  
He made lassies and good whisky -  
But seeing that was risky  
To look after them he made the kindly Kirk.

The Scotsman has an eye for nature's bounty -  
With swelling heart his native hills he scans -  
And he takes a special pride  
That he manages to hide  
In every glen a pile of lager cans.

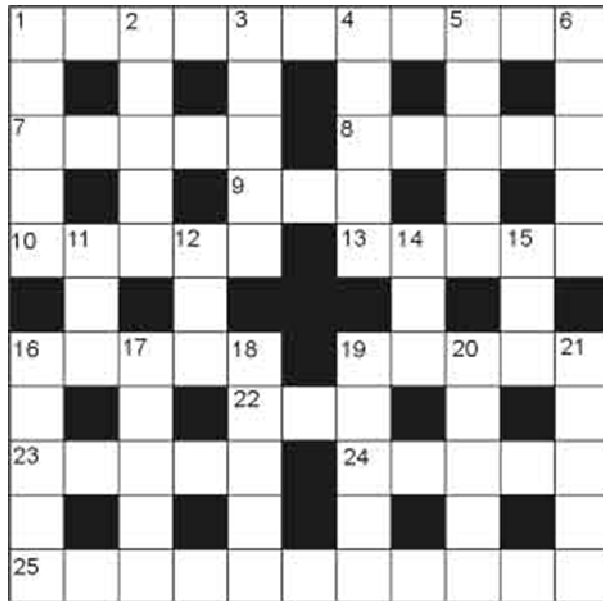
God gave you vast indigenous resources -  
Even oil on the Continental Shelf -  
And you're quick enough to shout  
For foreign help to get it out  
But you want to keep the profits for yourself.

---

Ye're all damned, the lot o' ye!  
Ye'll all go doon tae Hell -  
And rot wi' Episcopalians  
And Catholics - aye - and Englishmen as well!

And ye'll cry to the Lord for forgiveness -  
"O Lord, what did we do?  
We didna' ken!" and God in all his mercy  
Will smile and say, "Oh aye? Well ye ken noo!"

**MEL'S SUMMER PUZZLE (Mixed Clues)**



**Across**

- 1) He wrote without words.
- 7) Composer Erik.
- 8) Sounds like a place for builders.
- 9) Half a dance at tea time.
- 10) CCF's middle C.
- 13) Busy people might have a working one of these.
- 16) Do this to your lines and you're in trouble!
- 19) To pry.
- 22) A garland – sounds like what Pearsall did with his.
- 23) A triangular kerchief.
- 24) A noble gas.

Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast?

\* **Lunch & dinner**

Q7. What looks like half an apple?

\* **The other half**

Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become?

\* **Wet**

Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping ?

\* **No problem, he sleeps at night.**

Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?

\* **You will never find an elephant that has only one hand..**

Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have?

\* **Very large hands**

Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?

\* **No time at all, the wall is already built.**

Q13. How can u drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?

\* **Any way you want; concrete floors are very hard to crack.**

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***To commemorate her 80th birthday, the actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan 's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things" from the legendary movie "Sound Of Music".***

45. If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is.
46. Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky.
47. Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing.
48. Always pick on the correct idiom.
49. The adverb always follows the verb.
50. Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors.
51. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be by rereading and editing.
52. And always be sure to finish what

\*\*\*\*\*

**Most of us will have been made aware that, when answering examination questions, succinct and straightforward responses generally achieve the best results. But perhaps that is not always the case?**

**"ANSWER THE SET QUESTION!!"**

THIS STUDENT OBTAINED 0% IN AN EXAM

.....*Perhaps he deserved 100%?*

Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?

**\* his last battle**

Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

**\* at the bottom of the page**

Q3. River Ravi flows in which state?

**\* liquid**

Q4. What is the main reason for divorce?

**\* marriage**

Q5. What is the main reason for failure?

**\* exams**

- 25) Don't carp on about it, get on and do it! (5,3,3).

### **Down**

- 1) Food of love.
- 2) Took down the fact that Edward was missing.
- 3) Martin Baker could help you to do this.
- 4) Species of agave.
- 5) Richard's instrument of choice.
- 6) Top this is the highest quality.
- 7) A headless greeting could make you ill.
- 12) Legolas.
- 14) Grecian subject of a Keats ode.
- 15) Surprise voiced by a member of the Columbidae family.
- 16) Something to go with the muskets and drums.
- 17) Chekhov's was Vanya.
- 18) Champagne could be drunk in one of these.
- 19) An intuitive sense.
- 20) Admitted.
- 21) A lane for Beatles.

**From Ian:**

**Members of ESCS will (hopefully) be aware of the importance of the textual content in vocal music. It is generally the words or, if you are a "modernist", the lyrics, that inspire the composer to write his/her music in an appropriate mood. Words are intrinsically fascinating and persuasive. Perhaps the following rules might help any budding authors, poets, lyricists - or even composers - with their future creativity?**

A FEW RULES REGARDING WORDS AND THEIR USAGE:

1. Always avoid alliteration.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague--they're old hat.
4. Employ the vernacular.
5. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
6. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
7. Parenthetical words however must be enclosed in commas.
8. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
9. Contractions aren't necessary.
10. Do not use a foreign word when there is an adequate English quid pro quo.
11. One should never generalize.
12. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
14. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
15. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
16. It behooves you to avoid archaic expressions.
17. Avoid archaic spellings too.
18. Understatement is always best.
19. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
20. One-word sentences? Eliminate. Always!

21. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
22. The passive voice should not be used.
23. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
24. Don't repeat yourself, or say again what you have said before.
25. Who needs rhetorical questions?
26. Don't use commas, that, are not, necessary.
27. Do not use hyperbole; not one in a million can do it effectively.
28. Never use a big word when a diminutive alternative would suffice.
28. Subject and verb always has to agree.
29. Be more or less specific.
30. Placing a comma between subject and predicate, is not correct.
31. Use youre spell chekker to avoid misspelling and to catch typographical errors.
32. Don't repeat yourself, or say again what you have said before.
33. Don't be redundant.
34. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
35. Don't never use no double negatives.
36. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
37. Hopefully, you will use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
38. Eschew obfuscation.
39. No sentence fragments.
40. Don't indulge in sesquipedalian lexicological constructions.
41. A writer must not shift your point of view.
42. Don't overuse exclamation marks!!
43. Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents.
44. Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided.