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DEAR ALL

What a Wonderful World

Well I believe it is a wonderful world. We have such a wonderful variety of plants, animals, insects and much glorious scenery, from mountains, valleys, forests to rivers, seas and oceans. There is sadly, however, one major problem and that is 'man'. Every time I read a newspaper or watch the news on TV, I learn more about how the rain forests are being destroyed, the planet is warming up and many species are being hounded into extinction. Yes Covid-19 remains a huge problem but the threat to our environment is still very much a huge problem too.

I am sorry if I distress you but the news recently has certainly set me thinking and so I am trying to clean my act up somewhat. No more plastic drinking bottles, cutting down on bin liners in small bins around the house – just wash them out like mother used to do, growing our own fruit and vegetables and recycling and better still not using at all. Well I guess we can all do something to help protect the environment for generations to come.

As Albert Einstein said, 'Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet.' I guess cutting down on meat is one way of helping the world! Anyway, I just thought I'd start this newsletter by giving the reader 'food for thought'!

Looking after ourselves

I hope everyone is well, looking after themselves and enjoying the last few weeks of summer. I enjoy creating these newsletters and would like to say a special thank you to all those who have contributed so far. Much appreciated.

Update on Live Talks

Another well attended successful talk took place earlier this week. Live chat starts just after 10.45am with the talk starting at 11am. This together with the Q&A session makes an enjoyable experience.

Registration is pretty easy - please just visit www.mirthy.co.uk/NHSRF and you will get an email with a link to click at the start of the talk. Details of the next talk are shown on page 6 of this newsletter. The next 3 talks planned are:

- 22 Sep. – 10.45am The London No-one Tells you About – Geoff Harris
- 6 Oct. – 10.45am The History of Witches – Sandy Leong
- 20 Oct. – 10.45am Sentenced to 'Beyond the seas' – David Clark





Lewisham Branch

This is a group of us enjoying our first meeting for quite a while. We spent an enjoyable couple of hours looking around the shopping mall and socialising.

Time very well spent!

Leslie Brewster

Fairly Easy Chocolate Slogan Quiz

Answers in the next issue

The lighter way to enjoy chocolate.

Feel the bubbles.

The taste of paradise.



One

Two

Three

Get Some Nuts!

Why have cotton when you can have silk?

And all because the lady loves...

Four

Five

Six



Interesting fact: In 1947, hundreds of Canadian kids went on strike and boycotted chocolate after the price of a chocolate bar jumped from 5 to 8 cents.



Johanna Maria “Jenny” Lind The Swedish Nightingale

1820-1887

This year marks the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jenny Lind who was the founder of the Jenny Lind Hospital for Sick Children in Norwich.

Born in Klara in central Stockholm, Sweden, Jenny was the daughter of Niclas Jonas Lind and Ann Marie Fellborg.

When she was about nine years old her singing was overheard by the maid of Mademoiselle Lundberg, a principal dancer at the Royal Swedish Opera. After hearing her sing Mme Lundberg helped her gain admission to the acting school of the Royal Dramatic Theatre. She studied with Carl Magnus Craelius, the singing master at the theatre. Court singer Isak Berg helped with her early musical training and sang duets with her at various formal and informal events. By 1837, she had appeared on the stage 111 times. She received rave reviews from audiences resulting in a meteoric rise to Prima Donna status in Sweden.

She seriously damaged her voice through overuse and her career was saved by the singing teacher Manuel Garcia. She toured Denmark after a year of intense vocal training and met Hans Christian Anderson who fell in love with her, but she did not reciprocate.

The composer Giacomo Meyerbeyer was an admirer of Jenny and was instrumental in securing her the part of Bellini’s “Norma” in Berlin. This led to success in Austria and Germany. Robert Schumann and Hector Berlioz were admirers with Felix Mendelsohn composing an opera for her (sadly unfinished).

In 1847 Lind travelled to England. In the presence of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Jenny performed Alice in Robert le Diable. The audience went wild. She toured Great Britain and at each city where she performed an adoring public turned out to see the “Swedish Nightingale”

She gave her first concert in Norwich in 1847 and returned to give two concerts in 1849 in St Andrew’s Hall. [The money from these concerts was used to establish an infirmary for sick children which was eventually named after Jenny Lind.](#)

Near the end of 1849 she reluctantly agreed to meet with John Hall Wilson, sent by the American Promoter Phineas Taylor Barnum, to bring Jenny Lind to America. Barnum had never heard her sing, but he wished to improve his own image as a crass showman to that of one of culture. Jenny gave the proceeds of her first concert there to charity and her place in American hearts was established. She gave 93 concerts for Barnum with most of the proceeds going to charity.

She returned to Europe with her new husband, Otto Goldschmidt, in 1852. They had three children and she gave occasional concerts over the next two decades. They settled in England in 1855. Jenny became Professor of Singing at The Royal College of Music.

She died at Wynd’s Point, Herefordshire on 2nd November 1887 and was buried in the Great Malvern Cemetery.

Ed: My thanks to Elizabeth Blaxell of Norwich Branch for this feature. Learn more about the Hospital on page 4.



165 years of THE JENNY LIND HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, NORWICH (“The Jenny”)

In 1854 the proceeds from the concerts given by Jenny Lind were earmarked for the purpose of an infirmary for sick children. The hospital was situated in a building in Pottergate in the centre of Norwich. This was only the second hospital for children to be opened in the country; Great Ormond Street being the first. The Jenny had just twelve beds but built up gradually to having thirty beds and shared the premises with the Norwich Lying-In Charity. Girls had to be aged between 2 and 12 years old to be admitted and boys aged between 2 and 10.

The patients were admitted for medical and surgical care although these were limited. Sometimes rest, good food and cleanliness were the best treatment.

There was no resident doctor. The Matron and nurses were therefore expected to treat the children based on the senior doctor's instructions. In an emergency a message would be conveyed to the doctor responsible for that particular patient. It wasn't until 1905 that the Jenny had its first resident doctor.

By the end of the 19th century, the Pottergate building was in a bad state of repair. The Colman family donated land for a new hospital and the Jenny moved temporarily to a building in Tombland. The new children's hospital was opened in 1900 by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII).

The Jenny eventually amalgamated with the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital in 1975.

NB

In 1940 the first evacuees arrived in Norwich from the London area. This meant there was acute pressure on the beds available at the Jenny Lind Hospital. The war effort in the city greatly increased the need to recruit more nurses. It was at this time that seventeen-year-old girls were employed to work with children. They were called “Jenny Juniors”; a terminology and tradition that lived on for many years after the conflict was over.

I left school at the age of seventeen and began working at the Jenny. I loved my time there as a “Jenny Junior”. As it was still separate from the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, there was a lovely family feel to it and it is still thought of today by many nurses with great affection.

Elizabeth Blaxell

Norwich & District Branch

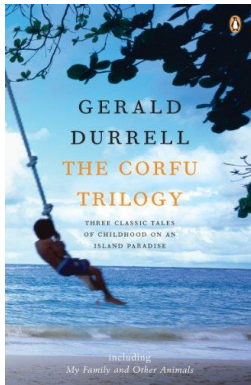
**Elizabeth as a
Jenny Junior**





Member's Book Choice Sheila Sheppard, Brighton Branch

The Corfu Trilogy by Gerald Durrell



When I asked Sheila if she would like to put forward a book for Member's Book Choice, she actually came up with a few, all of which whetted my appetite. She told me that she knows Corfu quite well having explored the island with husband Peter some years ago, looking for wild orchids in the spring. She remembers swimming in the sea and seeing snow on the mountains in Albania. Sounds lovely.

This Trilogy is three classic tales of childhood on an island paradise - *My Family and Other Animals*, *Birds, Beasts and Relatives* and *The Garden of the Gods*.

Just before the Second World War the Durrell family decamped to the glorious, sun-soaked island of Corfu where the youngest of the four children, ten-year-old Gerald, discovered his passion for animals: toads and tortoises, bats and butterflies, scorpions and octopuses. Through glorious silver-green olive groves and across brilliant-white beaches Gerry pursued his obsession . . . causing hilarity and mayhem in his ever-tolerant family.

These tales, of course, inspired ITV's acclaimed TV series *The Durrells*.

If you know of a book you would like to see featured in SE News please do let me know. Ed

Stepped on my scale
this morning and it
said: Please use social
distancing, one person
at a time. 🤔 🤔

Fairly Easy Photo Quiz Answers – last SEN issue

1. House sparrow
2. Blue tit
3. Song thrush
4. Great spotted woodpecker
5. Starling
6. Chaffinch



For the second
half of quarantine,
do we have to stay
with the same
family or can we
rotate? Asking for
a friend



Nostalgia.....

The Great Freeze of 1963, when the River Thames froze the coldest Jan. since 1814, the last time the Thames had frozen.



*Just one of our lovely gardens in the
South East*

RHS Garden Wisley

Wisley Garden,
Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB

Tel: 0845 260 900

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

Opening times:

Pre-booked admissions only:

Saturday – Sunday 9am – 5pm

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 5pm

Last entry to garden 3.30pm

Open daily except Christmas Day

Garden News

Squirreling away – It's not only hedgehogs that need to do some preparation for winter – jays and squirrels are also busy just now stashing away acorns. A jay can spend about 10 hours a day finding and stashing acorns in the ground, storing as many as 5,000 in total.

While jays tend to fit acorns into 'natural' holes, such as under leaf litters and crevices in tree bark, squirrels are more likely to dig a small hole in the ground to keep their acorns safe and hidden. They remember where they're hidden and come back for them later, sniffing them out even under a winter snow.



Next On-line Talk – 22 September



The London No-one Tells you About Geoff Harris



..... is just that, the London no-one tells you about. The Necropolis railway, the lost rivers and why the Americans don't own their embassy are just a few of the not so well-known details brought to life.

And finally, keep well everyone. If you would like to contribute to the next issue or you know of anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list or sent a hard copy then please do make contact via phone 07960 425956 or email london.eastanglia@nhsrf.org.uk

Sally Bundock
Development Officer