

Memory Café Amusement Arcade 26.

Remember Mary Poppins and Bert the chimney sweep's word?

Supercalifregalisticexpialidocious - there goes a clever gent.

Well, we have a new one:

Floccinaucinilpilification - it means the estimation of something as worthless.

Don't ask me to pronounce it, but it actually means something according to Ann Treneman of The Times. No doubt the clever gents are politicians. Perhaps one of you can write a song to wrap around it? Just think of all the opportunities to use it without most folks knowing what you mean! But that's not unusual.

Which takes us to the real deal!



Julie Andrews was born October 1935 in Walton on Thames. Her parents divorced after her mother had an affair with a family friend and she later remarried Ted Andrews. They were in show business but struggled to make ends meet. During WW2 they lived in a slum area of London and were very hard up. However, things began to improve with more entertainment work and they were able to move to Beckenham, Kent and send Julie to Lilian Styles-Allen for singing lessons. She had an enormous influence over her and thought she should sing Mozart and Rossini, having perfect pitch. However, she performed with her parents in variety.

In 1947, aged 12, she was talent spotted by Val Parnell who put her into a show at the London Hippodrome for a year. In the early 1950's she appeared on radio and TV with her parents in light entertainment shows.

She got to Broadway in 1954, originally in "The Boyfriend" and then as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady". Her really big break was with Disney's film "Mary Poppins" in 1963 and then she

went on to star as Maria in "The Sound of Music" They still hold records for the most lucrative films made.

Being a good old stager, she continued to perform musically until a botched throat operation in 1997 sadly damaged her vocal chords. Nevertheless, she has worked ever since in TV and stage shows. She has always preferred to sing bright and sunny songs avoiding sad, depressing or upsetting songs such as you get in opera. She also felt that she did not have the guts and weight to perform in opera, hence her choice of musical theatre. You can't keep a good performer down! What a remarkable lady.

I wonder if Wilfred and Thelma have any stories or contributions to make?

Keep safe, things are slowly getting better. Keep feeding the birds!

David