

This important anniversary year for “Pride and Prejudice” is also the 50th anniversary year of the release of The Merseybeats’ first hit, “It’s love that really counts”. Jane Austen would have heartily approved of the sentiments expressed. The entwined anniversaries are essentially linked, in the sense that they are both honouring love, divorced from the taint of materialism. Jane never married: maybe she was too much of a romantic. She wrote happy – ever- after – endings for herself in her novels, though and became the great writer whose work we cherish. Maybe Tom Lefroy, in abandoning her, did her a favour, or did us a favour. Would she have written those novels had he married her?

In the 1930s, an Austrian writer wrote novelle about women who, early in life, had become infatuated with men who had appeared to be enormously exciting, glamorous and charming. Decades later, the women encountered the men again and perceived them, more realistically, through adult eyes. In different ways, though, the women wanted to pay homage to the past and to the men who had inspired them and made life magical, however briefly.

You may agree with the underlying message conveyed by these novelle: that it is important to honour the past and the people who were once agents of change and inspiration. If that is the case, August / September 2013 could perhaps be an important anniversary date for you – or, for us, I should say – since it was in August 1963 that The Merseybeats threw open for us the doors to the numinous, in a way never to be forgotten.

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| Jane Austen | 16 th December, 1775 |
| Sun 24° ♈ | Jupiter 15° ♀ |
| Moon 14° ♁ | Saturn 20° ♁ |
| Mercury 6° ♈ | Uranus 16° ♀ |
| Venus 9° ♀ | Neptune 3° ♁ |
| Mars 20° ♁ | |

Source: “The Circle Book of Charts”
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