

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxi

It is Abbots Bromley Horn Dance time again, but do not be caught out by the date. This year it is the second rather than first Monday in September. Wakes Sunday (which is the first Sunday after 4th September) is September 11th. Horn Dance Monday is the next day – September 12th.

Dating back centuries, the Horn Dance is first recorded in August 1226 at the Barthelmy Fair, one of the few rural customs to have survived the passage of time. It could go back even centuries before. It is always associated with Saint Bartholomey, but his Saint's Day is August 24th. I think the conflict of dates may rest in the eleven days taken from the calendar in 1752. (September 4th the date involved in the calculations is eleven days after August 24th).

It is a busy week. September also has the Harvest Moon – the full bright moon that occurs close to the start of autumn. Farmers depend on the moon to harvest their crops until late into the night. It is the same weekend this year as the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, the Harvest Moon 2022 is on September 10th. The next moon also has significance, the Hunters Moon, when hunters began collecting food for the coming months. Stores were needed to be filled for the winter. These and other observances about the weather, the moon and the seasons show us how life was lived before calendars and the like. The times of seasons and the passing of the weather were of great significance.

We seem to be repeatedly looking at our encounters with each other. The observations of life around us from day to day ... person to person...reminds us of how life has always been lived. All this before writing and printing, otherwise folk would not have known anything or shared knowledge.

So perhaps a good idea to switch off the telly, have a conversation, share, explain and learn from each other. The answer to everything is not on the end of the phone! Surprise...surprise... phones cannot think!