

Tony Thinking Aloud xii

Great the shops are open! Dad can have a proper card for Father's Day. Maybe, of course, he might have liked a homemade one because it would be more personal. Family is clearly the essence of Father's Day, time to say thank you in a most personal way. Time to remember and recall. What comes to your mind in thinking about Father's Day? Amongst endless love and support from my father, a significant memory which says a lot is material. He bought me my first car for £34 when he only had a motor bike! A heartfelt thanks makes all the difference.

Dads in Barton will this weekend be without the Open Gardens, the Teddy Rides and will not have to help make a scarecrow. The family spirit of Open Gardens has brought the community together in the summer since the 1980's! It has frequently been Father's Day weekend.

We are brought together now by the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is continuing support for each other in the family of the village. Time to remain mindful of others especially in this Loneliness Awareness Week. Thoughts and prayers are with the NHS, carers and everyone who supports us at this time. We remember the sad, the anxious and bereaved.

It is good to share all aspects of life but what about Sunday? Will Dad share the telly? I note there are two matches before the Mersey Derby in the evening! Will it be the family gift to him, to watch the soccer!

Lots to think about just now. Life moves on looking towards the more normal. There is still anxiety, uncertainly, we must continue to be conscious that we rest in the hand of God – our Heavenly Father – in his loving care. He is ever with us; it is good if we can positively commit ourselves to that care. It is a time to look forward, as the Queen put it in the words of the wonderful Dame Vera Lynn – 'We'll meet again'.