Tony Thinking Aloud civ

May and we are on our way to summer. There are many traditions and sayings associated with this month. The month which heralds summer although June is thought of the beginning of the season. May Day is also Staffordshire Day.

Dancing around the Maypole, Crowning the May Queen, having noisy celebrations, customs from the Dark Ages. The earth needed waking up to start producing much needed food for the coming harvest.

May, a month of flowers, lanes margined with wild parsley and stitchwort (chick weed). The great celandine is there with buttercups, dandelions, gorse, and lady smocks. What an array! We cannot forget the bluebells. Nature bursts towards the summer before us, but first the blackthorn has to go before summer is truly here!

What do think of the saying 'Cast no clout until May is out!' (Is it the month or the flower?). Some people will not bring May into the house. Some will not wash blankets in the month (in case it gets cold again!!). There are many other sayings.

Now let us rationalise the frolics of May Day from the Dark Ages...A lot to think about this month. We are conscious that we depend on the fruits of the earth, on the Harvest. The church calendar has Rogation Days towards the end of the month (From the Latin Rogo, which means 'ask'). Prayers are offered in church or outdoors at the blessing of farms. Prayers that ask God's blessing on the fruits of the earth, on the coming harvest. A busy month in the growing pattern of the year.

What do you think of the weather wisdoms for the month?

'A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay'.

'Water in May bring bread through all the year'

'Mist in May, heat in June, makes harvest come right soon'.

Some say May is the most beautiful month of the year, a month alive with warm colour. The flowers and trees are in full bloom and even the sun joins this rhapsody by emitting warmer rays. In this time of so much angst around us lets take some time to enjoy it and reflect on the wonders of nature whatever the weather does.