

### Tony Thinking Aloud cxliii

As we move through the year, March has been with us for a number of weeks, but there are still significant days to think about...

Did you join in any aspects of Red Nose Day last Friday? It is still possible to donate... for programmes that will ensure children living in poverty are safe healthy and well educated – you can donate at

<https://donation.comicrelief.com/>

It has been of course the Cheltenham Festival. Constitution Hill was a good choice for winner in Coronation Year, although I am not sure that where the Coronation Day procession actually goes includes the hill!

Last week we looked toward to this Sunday which is Mothering Sunday – although the American name Mothers' Day is often used. Mothering Sunday in the middle of Lent when folk went to church together to their Mother Church – in this area Tatenhill Church being the oldest. Those in service were permitted to make a Simnel cake for the whole family and went home for tea. Violets for Mother are often associated with the day but difficult to pick many in the countryside today

We must not forget that March has the traditional first day of Spring – March 21<sup>st</sup> and towards the end of the month Lady Day – the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – March 25<sup>th</sup>. As I noted last week this is the first Quarter day of the year—farm workers and servants were employed for a year from Lady Day. Until fairly recently it was one of the Quarter Days when bills had to be paid. I guess a lot of the readers will remember. My Grandma collected together notes and coins from the pot on the mantelpiece to pay the bills at either the Electric Light Showrooms or Gas Showrooms (as they were called).

The month of March continues – rooks are busy about their nests, together with blackbirds, song thrush, wood pigeon to name a few. Wild rabbits are busy with young, hedgehogs awaken from their sleep.

We have dates on the calendar which are independent are above the year as it were ... where nature has its own pattern as ever and moves on.

March comes like lion and goes out like a lamb. March winds and April showers bring forth the sweet May flowers and I have quite a few already.

Once more I reflect with you – we all experience the passing seasons together along with nature in all its glory- thinking about the way it is a background to all our lives.