

Tony Thinking Aloud cxlvi

I suppose it is because my mother was born in April it always sticks out in my mind. Her birthday was April 5th - and in 1932 'April the Fifth' was a very popular Derby winner – I do not know the odds – but it was owned by Tom Walls a very popular comedian of the time. I think she put some money on! Odd how things stick in your mind.

April brings showers which enables us to enjoy the sweet May flowers! The Roman name for the month is Aprilis. There were festivals in the month, it was a best time for farmers. So much is happening in the garden and in the countryside too! Horse Chestnut, hornbeam, ash, beech, oak, birch all coming into in flower. The Blackthorn hedge stands arrayed in white which contrasts vividly with the black bark. So much on the Barton to Tatenhill Road!

April has links with the Greek Goddess – Aphrodite. April Fools' Day has gone as the month has moved to the climax of the Christian Year - Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. However, the Patron Saints Day of England is still to come on April 23rd. It is unfortunate that England does not seem to celebrate its National Day as enthusiastically as other countries. We have been following the birthdays of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II particularly in recent years as she achieved a remarkable age – on April 21st, each year.

Look out for the butterflies – the squirrels building their homes for the young and what of the weather...

April wet, good wheat.

A cold April brings us bread and wine.

And if this applies to you When the elm leaf is like mouse's ear....then to sow barley never fear. Mind you, elms are few and far between now sadly.