

The God Spot Celebrations for May



Do you celebrate anything particular during May? Take May Day, 1st May. There are plenty of traditions, from Morris dancing to the crowning of the May Queen—but why they are done is now almost forgotten. This is one suggestion: although summer does not officially begin until June, May Day really marks its beginning, having its origins in the Roman festival of Flora, goddess of fruit and flowers. Celebrating expresses joy and hope after a long winter.

How to remember

One of the customs is Maypole dancing, for which people used to cut down young trees and stick them in the ground to celebrate the fine weather that would allow planting to begin.



It was a custom to go 'a-Maying' early on May Day, to collect flowers and greenery to decorate their houses. Girls would make a point of washing their faces in the dew in the belief that it would make them beautiful for the coming year.

What to Remember

There are other things to remember, however, and more recent May Day events include the 1707 Act of Union which

created Great Britain, and the death of Ayrton Senna. How do I know that? It is fascinating (and educational!) to browse Wikipedia. This is just a tiny sample of anniversaries coming up in May:

- 3 May 2000: the sport of geocaching was created
- 6 May 1954 Roger Bannister was the first to run 1 mile in less than 4 minutes
- 8 May 1886 Coca-Cola was first sold as a patent medicine

Remembering and doing

The one which most struck me however was 26 May: 'National Sorry Day' in Australia. (It also happens to be Mother's Day in Poland; in fact throughout May you could celebrate

Mother's Day on four different days around the world!). But back to 'Sorry Day'. In Australia it relates to the historical separation of Aboriginal children from their families. But what a great idea, a 'Sorry Day' in a general sense! A day when we all take stock and say sorry for wrongs we have done to other people! We could even say sorry to God too. And lets not limit it to just once a year!

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