July is a fairly quiet month, dominated by the hay harvest, providing the fodder to feed the animals during the winter. There are a number of local fairs and celebrations, frequently involving hay strewing and rushbearing.

Tusser, Thomas. *Five hundreth pointes of good husbandrie*, 1586

“With tossing and raking, and setting on cocks;
The finest for sheep and thy gelding allow.
Cut off, good wife, ripe bean with a knife.
Get grist to the mill to have plenty in store,
Let miller lack water as many do more”

Some of the more interesting saints days include the Ordination and Translation of St. Martin of Tours (the 6th), the Translation of Thomas the Martyr (of Canturbury; i.e. Thomas Becket) (the 7th), the Seven Brothers (on the 10th), the Translation of St. Switn’s (the 15th), Mary Magdalene (22nd).

Possibly of some local interest, the Thursday following the Translation of Martin of Tours (this year this will be the 8th) the Worshipful Company of Vintners in London have traditionally had a procession through the streets from Vintner’s Hall to the several Churches they have been associated with, all led by specially clad men with brooms to sweep the streets clear before them.

Lest you think this is not obscure enough, it was believed that if it rained on St. Switn’s day, it would rain, off and on, for the next 40 days.