

## **Look before you Leap into a Haystack Full of Hot Irons**

It has become apparent to cwg that many proverbs are no longer relevant in today's modern world and that many of the things we say do not carry the intended meaning any more. We have therefore put together a handy list of well-known phrases and sayings with notes to help you understand their contemporary connotations.

### **It's All Pie in the Sky.**

Have you ever seen a pie in the sky? However if you think you have seen two swallows in the sky and imagine Summer is nearly here you probably haven't because swallows are increasingly rare in many parts of the world so you are unlikely to see one. Or a pie.

### **It Will All Come Out in the Wash**

This was an old slogan beloved of the manufacturers of washing powders when a washing machine was the province of the rich. But it was discovered that these products did not remove 'the toughest of stains' and was dropped. This coincided with feminism and women refusing to do the family wash any more anyway.

### **The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating**

What sort of pudding? Apple Pie or Sticky Toffee or Brandy Trifle with Raspberries and Syrup Sponge? These puddings just incur weight gain, causing guilt and prove nothing other than too much sugar makes you fat and is responsible for ensuing depression.

### **Poundland**

Have you been into Poundland recently? Nothing much in these shops costs a pound any more and they should be sued for false trading descriptions.

### **Don't Put all Your Eggs in One Basket**

Have you been in Tesco recently? No eggs.

### **Don't Count Your Chickens Before They Have Hatched**

These may be the chickens that have not been laying the eggs.

### **A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss**

This is a reference to an ill-fated attempt on the part of Sir Mick Jagger (or was it Keith Richards?) to go out with Kate Moss, very successful model and good friend of Sir Philip Green. (Note: not Sir Philip Sidney. He was an Elizabethan poet. Easy mistake to make.) Unfortunately Kate was having none of it. She is on record as being highly disapproving of the whole drugs, sex and rock'n'roll thing and turned Mick (or was it Sir Keith?) down.

### **I Did It My Way**

Or so crooned Frank Sinatra giving credence to the fact that even if what you achieve is rubbish, if you do it with enough conviction you can get away with it. (Unless it is illegal and then you will get a conviction). The song has also of course provided a musical background for many funerals.

### **Dipping Your Toe in the Water**

This is a reference to last Summer and the hosepipe ban when we were not allowed to have a bath and showers were limited to one per week per family and the water had to be collected up so that the youngest member could have a kind of wash by 'dipping the toe in the water'.

### **No Man is an Island**

Unless it is the Isle of Man (or the Isle of Dogs, if you're a dog).

### **Don't Judge a Book by its Cover**

Recent research has shown that the reading of pornography is not confined to the privacy of one's own home. Studies reveal that many commuters who purport to be reading 'An Anthology of English Verse' or the 'History of the World in 100 Objects' are in fact looking at something very different but concealing the fact by putting a false cover around the book. Why did I not think of that before I got banned from using the Underground?

### **Enjoy it While it Lasts**

Useless piece of advice. Doesn't tell you what 'it' is. Could be anything.

### **It's Not Over Till It's Over**

See above. And **No News is Good News**. More vacuous comment.

### **Two Heads Are Better than One**

Try telling that to Tracy up the road who dreams of becoming a Miss England but who needs a little bit of surgery first.

### **A Glass Half Full**

This is the new strap line for T.I.P.S.Y. (Teetotal In Part Since Yesterday).

Last piece of advice: since saying anything appears to be a minefield remember:

**Silence Is Golden.**