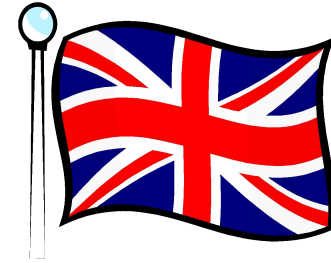


Holidays and Traditions in Great Britain



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Christmas Day

On the 25th of December there is the greatest holiday of all in England – **Christmas**. It is the time when Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus.

People buy a Christmas tree and decorate it with toys, coloured balls, lights and send X-mas cards to their friends and relatives.





Christmas Stockings

Many families hang large brightly coloured Christmas stockings over the fireplace or on the walls of their homes during Christmastime in the hopes that Santa Claus will fill them with toys and treats.





Christmas Day

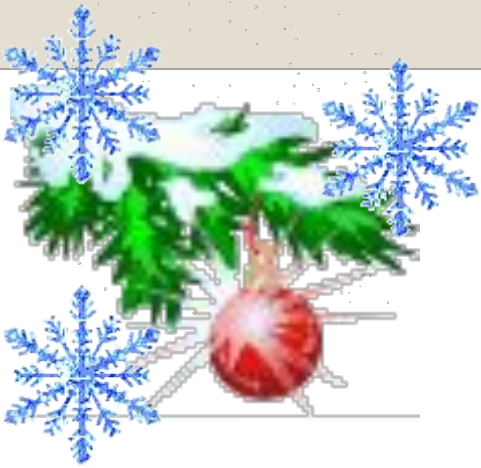


Christmas Day is the favourite day for children.

They wake up very early in the morning to find their stockings have been filled by Father Christmas.



Santa Claus



Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas or simply "Santa", is an old man who brings gifts to the homes of the good children during the late evening of Christmas Eve.



Santa Claus

Santa Claus lives at the NORTH POLE, with a large number of magical elves, and nine (originally eight) flying reindeer.

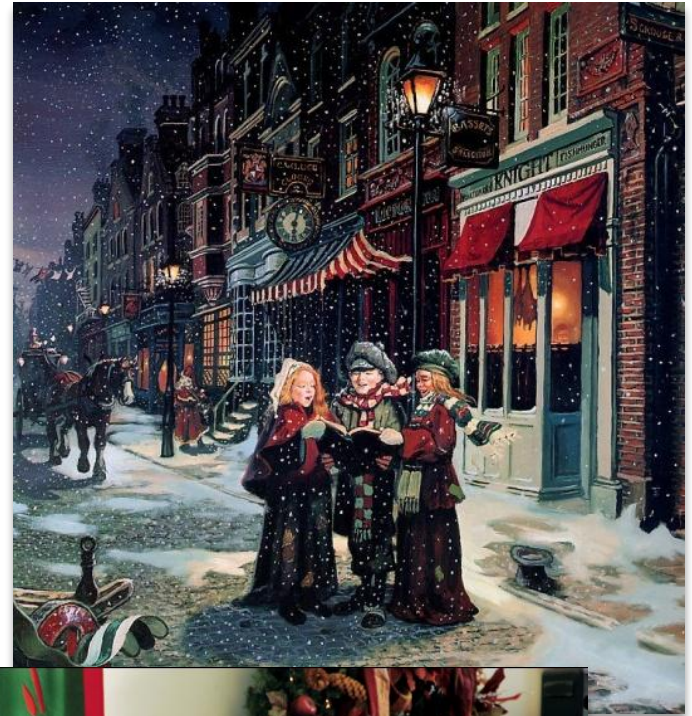




Christmas Carols

Christmas carols and caroling in the old world was a mix of singing and dancing and was practiced for all festivals throughout the year.

When Christmas was firmly established to be celebrated on December 25th, many of the existing carols were sung on that day and new ones written to celebrate Christmas.



Jingle bells



Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright.
What fun it is to ride and sing,
A sleighing song tonight.

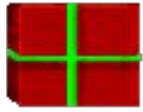
Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.



Jingle



Christmas Gifting



The idea of presenting people you love with gifts is as old as the human race.

The idea of exchanging gifts at Christmas time originated with the birth of Jesus.



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Boxing Day



Boxing Day is usually celebrated on the following day after Christmas Day.

It is the day to open the Christmas Box to share the contents with the poor.

Boxing Day is the day when families get together. It is a day of watching sports and playing board games with the family. Many families go on walks in the countryside.





New Year`s Eve



**New Year`s Eve is celebrated on the 31st of December.
Most people see with friends and relatives.**

At midnight they sing New Year songs and wish



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New Year`s Day

New Year's Day is **the first day of the year.**

All over Britain there are parties, fireworks, singing and dancing, to ring out the old year and ring in the new.

As the clock - Big Ben strikes midnight, people link arms and sing a song.

Auld Lang Syne.





The New Year Resolution

New Year`Day is the beginning of the new year.

Many people make resolutions. They promise themselves to improve their business and health. Schoolchildren decide to do their best to study better and obey their parents and teachers.



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FEBRUARY

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Saint Valentine`s Day



People with romantic feelings for a particular person may send that person cards, gifts and text messages on Valentine's Day.

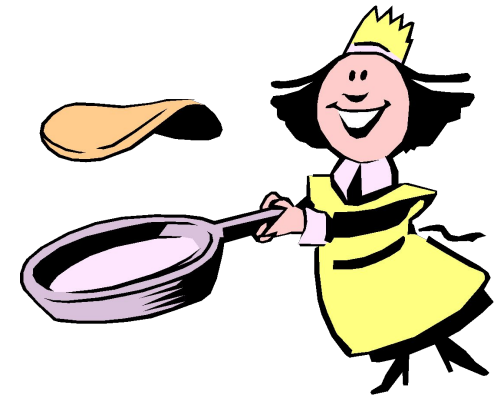
Popular gifts include chocolates and flowers.



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Pancake Day



Pancake Day is celebrated on Shrove Tuesday in spring at the beginning of Lent.

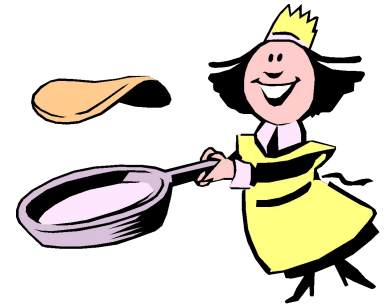
Lent is a period of 40 days before Easter.

Pancake Day is traditionally a day of celebration, the last day that you can eat what you want until Easter.





Pancake Day



On this day in England families usually have pancakes for dinner.



Pancake Day is a funny custom. It is famous for an unusual race with frying pans and pancakes.



Competitors have to throw it in the air and catch it again in the pan.





April Fools Day



**A day of jokes and tricks.
You have to play the joke before
12 o'clock midday, otherwise the joke
is on you.**

**No one really knows when this custom
began but it has been kept for hundreds
of years.**





April Fools Day

**The First of April, some do say
Is set apart for All Fools Day;
But why the people call it so,
Not I, nor they themselves do know.**





April Fools Day



There are rules to this game.

- 1. Your trick must be harmless.**
- 2. Your victim must believe you.**
- 3. Your trickery must make your victim at least smile (or better yet, laugh) when you shout "April Fool's!" Otherwise, it does not qualify as an April Fool's Day trick.**

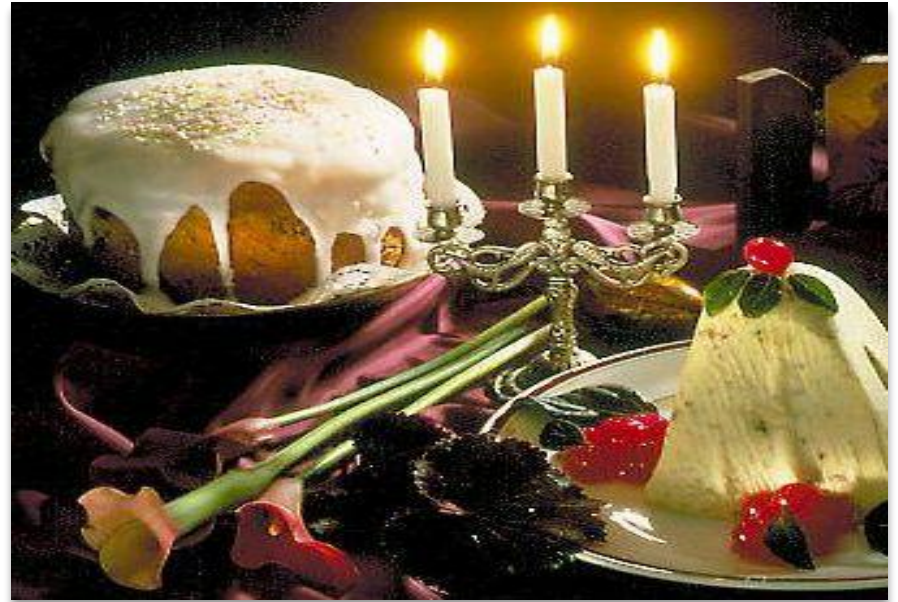
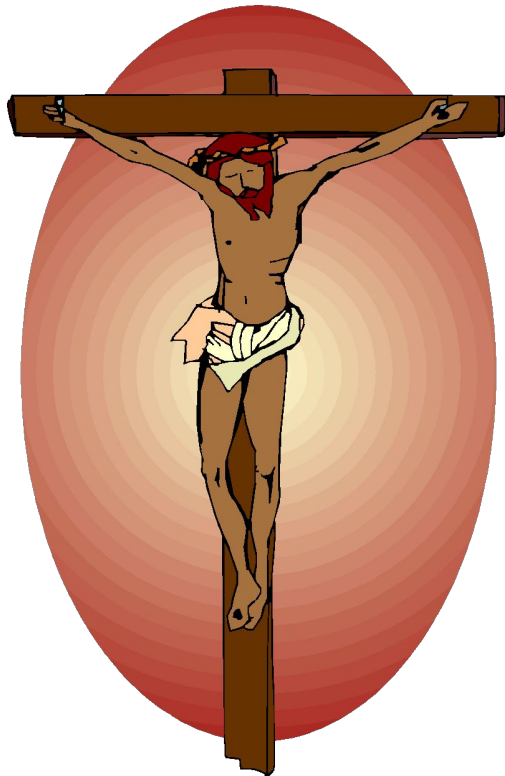


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Good Friday

The Friday before Easter.
The church marks the
death of Christ.



British usually eat hot-cross
buns, which are marked on
top with cross.



Good Friday



Good Friday is a public holiday in the United Kingdom. People who regularly attend church will probably attend a special church service on Good Friday. For other people, it is a day off work in spring. Some people use the day to work in their gardens, while others take advantage of the long Easter weekend.



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**Easter
Sunday**

Easter Day

Easter is a very important festival in Great Britain.

Easter usually comes in April and it is always on Sunday.

The wish for this day: "Happy Easter!"

There are many funny symbols and interesting traditions on this day.



Happy Easter



**Easter
Sunday**

Easter Day

**One of the symbols of Easter
is Easter Bunny.**



**In the UK, children believe that
if they behave well, the Easter bunny
brings chocolate eggs for them.**



Easter Day



At home the children arrange this "hunt" for chocolate Easter eggs, which are hidden in the house or garden.



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May Day



May Day is on the first Monday of May.
It is a pagan festival to celebrate the end of winter and welcome summer.
Children dance around the maypole and sing songs.



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Chelsea Flower Show



In May is Britain's most important flower and garden show.

Many people come to see the prize flowers and specially built gardens.



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The Queen`s Official Birthday



Queen Elizabeth II was born on the 21st of April, 1926. Her birthday is officially celebrated **on the second Saturday of June** each year.

It is marked by a military parade known as Trooping the Colour (Carrying of the Flag).



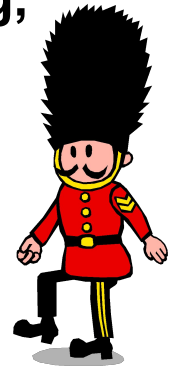
June

Trooping The Colour

Each June, the Queen and other members of the Royal Family attend the Trooping the Colour ceremony on **Horse Guards Parade**.



There is a lot of marching, military music and the soldiers are dressed in colourful uniforms.



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Hallowe`en



is an old English holiday of
joke.
It is the last night in October
when ghosts, witches and
fairies are especially active.

Long ago people believed
in ghosts. They thought that
the dead came back to their
homes on Hallowe`en and
walked around all night.





Hallowe`en



Hallowe`en celebrations include costume parties where people dress as witches, ghosts, goblins and monsters. They are said to be used to scare off demons.



OCTOBER

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Hallowe`en

Many children dressed in costumes knock on their neighbors' doors and yell:

Trick or treat, trick or treat,
Give us something good to eat,
Give us candy, give us cake,
Give us something sweet to take.

Give us cookies, fruit and gum,
Hurry up and give us some.
You had better do it quick,
Or we`ll surely play a trick.





Hallowe`en



The symbol of this holiday is **“Jack o`lantern”**.

Children make lanterns out of pumpkins.

Houses are decorated with pumpkins.



NOVEMBER

5

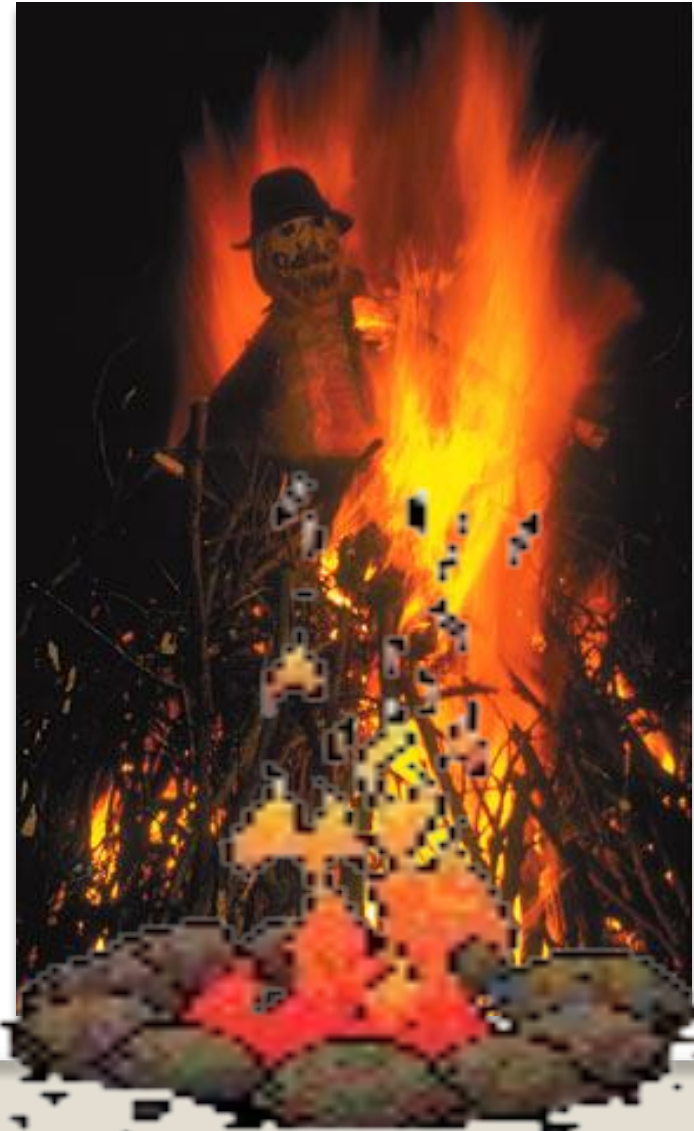
Guy Fawke's Night

Guy Fawke's Night is on the **5th of November.**

Guy Fawkes was a terrorist. The day marks the discovery of a plot to blow up Parliament in 1605.

People in Britain light fireworks and burn a straw guy on a big bonfire.

This celebration is often associated with collecting money for charity.



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Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is on **the 11th of November.**

It is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts.



NOVEMBER

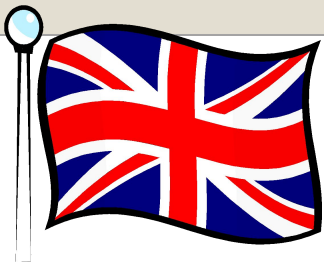
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Remembrance Day

At 11 am on each Remembrance Sunday a two minute silence is observed at war memorials and other public spaces across the UK.



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Many festivals and holidays in Britain are very old. Every town and village has its own traditions, some of them are carefully planned.



Resources:

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