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Traditions and Customs in Great Britain

Crufts Dog Show

• In February.

- Valuable dogs from all over the world compete in Birmingham.
 - The best dog gets the title Crufts Supreme Champion.



Saint Valentine's Day

February 14 Was started in the time of Roman Empire.

- Is dedicated to St. Valentine.
- People send a card to someone they love, like, fancy or admire.



The Boat Race

In March

- A rowing race between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
 - On the river Thames in London (7,2 km).



Pancake Day

In March

- The last day before Lent.
- Pancake race-running while holding a pancake in a frying pan. Competitors have to throw it in the air and catch it again in the pan.



Easter

In April.

- The celebration of the Resurrection of Christ
- Schools are closed for two weeks.
 - People give eachother chocolate eggsthat are wrapped insilver paper.





The London Marathon

- One of the biggest marathons in the world.
 - Each year about 30,000 people start the race and about 25,000 finish.
- Raise money for charity.



May Day

May 1

- A pagan festival to celebrate the end of winter and welcome summer.
- Children dance
 around the maypole
 and sing songs.



Chelsea Flower Show

In May

- Britain's most
 important flower and
 garden show.
- Thousands of people come to see the prize flowers and specially built gardens.



Midsummer Day

June 24

- Summer solstice.
- People stay up until midnight to welcome in midsummer day.
 - When the fires die down, men run or jump through it to bring good luck.



Trooping The Colour

- The second Saturday in June.
- Celebrates the Queen's official birthday.
 - Lots of marching,
 military music and the
 soldiers are dressed in
 colourful uniforms.



Saint Swithin's Day

July 15

- Saint Swithin was
 England's Bishop of
 Winchester.
- 40 days of badweather will follow ifit rains on this day.



Wimbledon

- The last week of July and the first week of June.
- At Wimbledon in South-West London.
- One of the four great world tennis
 championships and
 the only one which is
 played on grass.



Notting Hill Carnival

- The last weekend in August.
- Takes place in Notting Hill.
 - People dress up in fabulous costumes.
- Steel bands play
 African and
 Caribbean music.



Halloween

October 31

- A pagan festival celebrates the return of the souls that visit their former houses.
- People dress up as witches, ghosts etc.
- Houses are decorated with pumpkins.



Guy Fawke's Night

• November 5

- He was a terrorist.
- The day marks the discovery of a plot to blow up Parliament in 1605.
 - People make models of him and burn them on big bonfires.



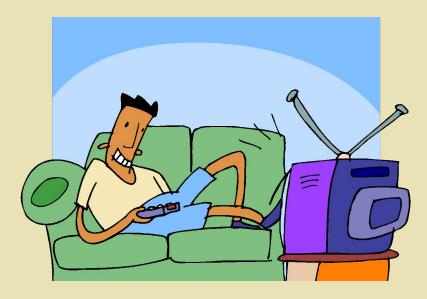
Christmas Day

• December 25

- Religious ceremony commemorating the birth of Christ.
- Children wake up early to find presents in their stockings.
- Traditional Christmas tree and dinner.

Boxing Day

December 26 • It is usually spent in front of the TV, recovering from Christmas Day. Servants go from house to house with collecting boxes.



New Year's Eve

- December 31
- Traditionally Scottish celebration.
 - At midnight everybody joins hands and sings Auld Lang Syne.

