



New Year in England



General information

In the UK, the celebration of the New Year takes place in the night from December 31 to January 1 in the Gregorian calendar. New Year is considered less important holiday than Christmas, and therefore celebrated without gifts. However, in Scotland all the way around.

New Year, unlike Christmas, is celebrated not only at home in the family.



Festive table

New Year's favorite British delicacies include apple pie, round oat cakes with a hole in the middle, pudding, cheese Kebbi and roast goose, steaks of hot dishes. In Scotland, people also bake an unusual sandy cake with almonds, walnuts, marzipan figures and national symbols from sugar. The hostesses also prepare a turkey with chestnuts and potatoes, stewed Brussels sprouts and meat pies. Traditional English Christmas drink is Punch.



New Year decoration

Usually all New Year decorations are in the house since Christmas - these include branches of holly, mistletoe and ivy which are hung over the door on the chandeliers and table lamps. Of course, the central decoration is elegantly decorated fir.



Customs and superstitions

The English bells herald about the arrival of the New Year. However, they begin to call a little before midnight and make a "whisper" as blankets, which bundle up them, prevent the bells to demonstrate the power. But exactly at twelve the "stripped" bells begin to sing loudly the hymns of the New Year. Also UK residents join an ancient custom "Admitting New Year". When the clock begin to strike twelve, people open the rear door of the house to let the old year, and with the last kick of hours - the front door to let in the new year.



If, after the twelfth strike, a young man with dark hair (the first guest) comes into the house, the coming year will be successful. The first guest should bring bread, crayon and a pinch of salt. After he burns ember in the fireplace, everyone congratulate each other and a guest who brought good luck, is sure to be well fed.

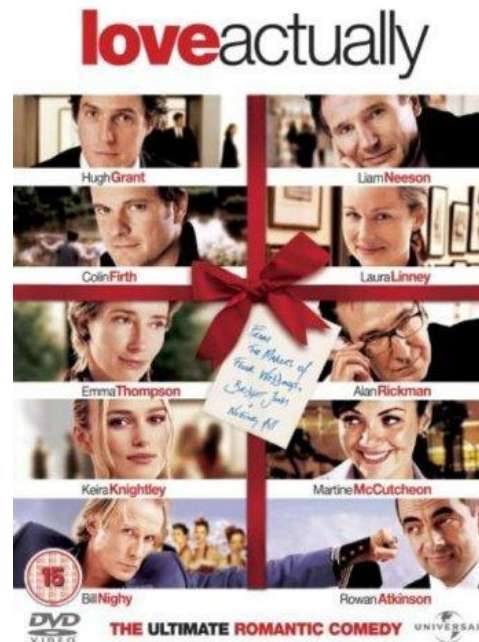
In England, New Year's performances for children are played on the themes of old English fairy tales. Lord of Chaos is a fun carnival procession, which is attended by fairy-tale characters: Hobby Horse, March Hare, Humpty Dumpty, Punch and others. All New Year's Eve street vendors sell toys, whistles, Tweeters, masks, balloons.



Before going to bed children put a plate for gifts on the table which will be brought by Santa Claus and put hay in the shoes- a feast for the donkey. If lovers kiss under the mistletoe during the chime of Big Ben - it is believed that this will provide them with strong relationships in the new year. A kiss with someone who is under the mistletoe in the center of the room, according to legend, gives good luck and happiness for the whole coming year.



The television shows Hollywood classic: "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946), "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947), "The Shop Around the Corner" (1940), and modern cinema - "Love Actually" (2003).



Gifts

It is not common to give expensive and large gifts in UK because New Year is considered to be a continuation of Christmas. However, close people exchange useful things and souvenirs such as key chains, candles and beautiful teaspoons. Gifts are distributed by lot. Also, people present small cards and Christmas decorations. By the way the custom of sharing greeting cards was originated in England. The first Christmas card was printed in London in 1843.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

