

# Festivals and holidays in Great Britain



# What do you know?



# Bank holidays in the UK

There are fewer public holidays in Great Britain than in other European countries. Public holidays in Britain are called bank holidays, because the banks as well as most of the offices and shops are closed.

As the UK is a country made up of four independent regions, official holidays depend on if you live in England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland. So, there are between eight and ten bank holidays in the UK. They are:

- **Christmas Day,**
- **Boxing Day,**
- **New Year's Day,**
- **Good Friday,**
- **Easter Monday,**
- **May Day,**
- **Spring Bank Holiday and**
- **Summer Bank Holiday.**





January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December

# New Year's Day

**New Year's Day is the first day of the year, in the Gregorian calendar. 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.**



## New Year

- Every year the people of Norway give the city of London a present – a big Christmas tree
- Some people make New Year Resolutions:
  - ✓ *I'll get up early every morning next year.*
  - ✓ *I'll clean, my shoes every day.*



## Hogmanay celebrations

- Festival in Scotland
- It is not clear where the word «Hogmanay» comes from, but it is connected with the provision of food and drink for all visitors to your home on 31st of December



# Epiphany

**6 January**

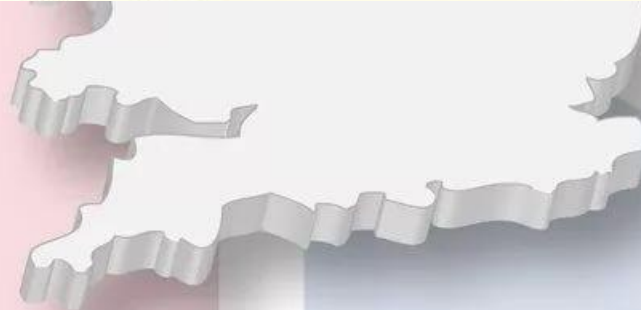
**Epiphany, or Twelfth Night, marks the end of the Christmas and New Year season for most people in the United Kingdom (UK). It is also an occasion for Christians to celebrate the three kings' (or wise men's) visit to Jesus shortly after his birth and Jesus' baptism.**





# Burns Night

**Burns Birthday** (25th January) is a national holiday in Scotland. Its name Burns Night or Burns Supper. This is a traditional dinner with the order of the dishes sung by the poet, brought in to the music of the Scottish bagpipe and reading lyrics of Burns (by the afternoon prayer “**The Selkirk Grace**” and “**Ode to Haggis**”).





# 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.





# March 1 - Saint David's Day



St. David's - Wales' patron saint. This festival is very important for the people of Wales and is celebrated as a patriotic and cultural festival of Wales across the world.



March 1 - is the date of the death of Saint David. On this day, the 16th century Protestant church was celebrating a religious festival. And since the 18th century for this day was fixed value of the national festival of Wales.





# 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.



## KE DAY IN THE UK

In Britain Pancake Day is more generally connected with relics of the traditional feasting before the fast. British people eat pancakes on Pancake Day in February or March. In some parts of Britain there are pancake races on Pancake Day.



People race with a frying pan in one hand. They have to "toss" the pancake, throw it in the air and catch it again in the frying pan .



# St. Patrick's day

*The most important holiday in Ireland is St. Patrick's day (17<sup>th</sup> March). People associate this day with the national symbol of Ireland – a shamrock.*



**The 17th of March is a national holiday in Ireland – St. Patrick's day. On that day people wear a shamrock. A shamrock is a plant with three leaves. It is the national symbol of Ireland.**

**St. Patrick was a man who had wonderful power. He cleared Ireland of snakes.**



**St. Patrick's day.**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA-YGKN7k\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA-YGKN7k_o)



# Mother's Day



## Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday, sometimes known as Mother's Day, is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or the beginning of April.

Traditionally, people visited the church where they were baptized. People visit and take gifts to their mothers and grandmothers.



APRIL

1  
FOOL'S  
DAY

# April Fool's Day



When and what is April Fool's Day?  
April Fool's Day is on April 1st. It's the custom in the UK to play a trick or a joke on someone on this day. If the person falls for the joke then they are called an 'April Fool'. In fact it's only half a day because April Fool's Day finishes at midday. No more jokes after lunchtime, please!



# Queen's Official Birthday

**The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year: her actual birthday on 21 April 1926 and her official birthday on a Saturday in June.**



**Her father, grandfather and Queen Victoria all had birthdays in winter so the official Queen's birthday is celebrated in the UK in June when the weather is warmer.**





# St George's Day

**St. George's Day is on 23 April.** It is England's national day. St George's Day in the United Kingdom remembers St George, England's patron saint. According to legend, he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess.

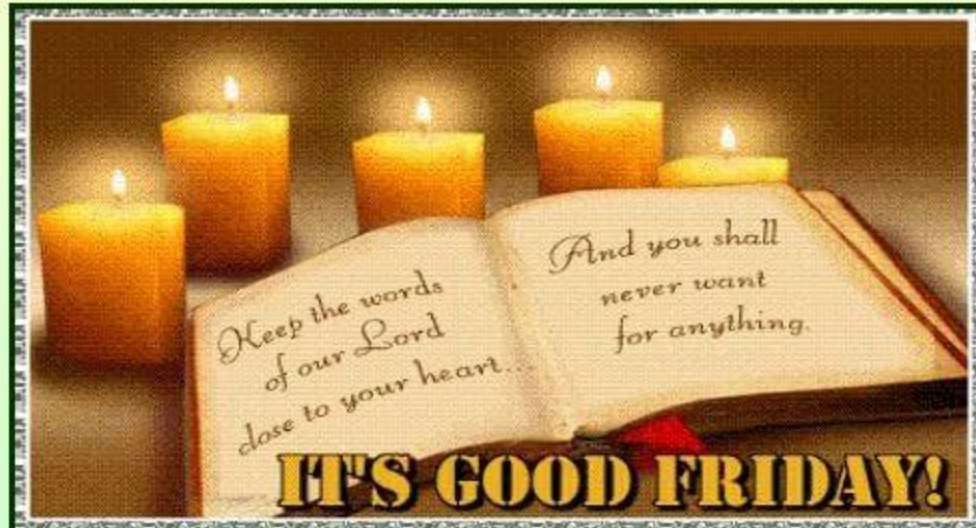


# Good Friday

## April



Good Friday is a public holiday in the United Kingdom. It falls just before Easter Sunday. 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 the spring. Some people use the day to work in their gardens, while others take advantage of the long Easter weekend and the school holidays at this time of year to take a short vacation. The church marks the death of Christ.





# Easter Sunday (Easter Day)

Easter usually comes in the month of April. However, Easter can fall as early as March or as late as May.

Easter Sunday in the United Kingdom is traditionally about Jesus Christ's resurrection from death, according to Christian belief. However, many people use the day to decorate Easter eggs, share chocolate eggs and participate in Easter egg competitions. Easter is the time for holidays, festivals.



## Easter Monday



- Post Easter festivities that used to be a week long celebration are now just on the Monday following Easter
  - Not all countries celebrate this holiday but they do in France
- Some Easter Monday events include
  - Egg rolling competitions
  - Dousing people with water (holy water)

[https://vk.com/video-35183188\\_456239025](https://vk.com/video-35183188_456239025)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu3U5QCRH6s>



# May Day



The first Monday of May used to be celebrated in Britain. May is the month for traditional dancing around the Maypole. The original Maypoles were freshly felled trees, stripped of their branches, and decorated with flowers and ribbons. Many English villages still have a maypole, and the villagers dance around it



No 2.7.

## Northern Ireland



## Wales



## Scotland



## England





Spring Bank Holiday is celebrated on the last Monday in May. People don't go to work on this day. Many people go to the country and have picnics.

## The Queen's Official birthday.



Queen Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary) was born on 21 April, 1926 at 17 Bruton Street, London. Her birthday is officially celebrated in Britain on the second Saturday of June each year. The day is referred to as “the Trooping of the Colour”, the official name is “the Queen’s Birthday Parade”.

## The Colour and Queen’s birthday.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DGNtgDV2R8>



The official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II is marked each year by a military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour (Carrying of the Flag). The official name is “the Queen’s Birthday Parade”.

# FATHER'S DAY

We also honor our Dad,  
because he's great too!  
We celebrate Father's  
Day on the third  
Sunday in June. Natalie  
and I usually bring him  
breakfast in bed! And I  
buy him a greeting card  
and a new necktie.



## Wimbledon Tennis Championships

One of the four great world tennis championships and the only one which is played on grass.

24 June -  
7 July





## Henley royal Regatta

The River Thames and the town of Henley on Thames are transformed into one large sporting and social arena where the world's best rowers compete.





# Swan Upping

On the River Thames there are hundreds of swans, a lot of these white birds belong to the King or Queen. In July the Queen's swan keeper goes, in a boat, from London Bridge to Henley. He looks at all the young swans and marks the royal ones.



- In London the Notting Hill Carnival is held. This street festival is best known for its exuberant costumes, dancing and music played by steel drum bands. The festival has been held every year since 1965 and was originally organized by immigrants from the Caribbean, particularly Trinidad, to the United Kingdom. It started as a protest against the racism, poor working and housing conditions that they suffered.



# Summer Bank Holiday

*In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the summer bank holiday is on the last Monday of August. In Scotland it is on the first Monday of August. This day marks the end of the summer holidays for many people who return to work or school in the autumn.*





In Great Britain  
children  
don't go to school  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
September.  
They begin to  
study on the  
second Tuesday  
of September.

# Harvest Festivals

- ◆ In September.
- ◆ A Christian festival.
- ◆ It was held to say thank you to God for a good harvest.
- ◆ Churches are decorated with fruit, vegetables and flowers.



# HISTORY

- Halloween means “holy evening”.
- It takes place on October 31st.
- It is celebrated by many people in the USA and in the United Kingdom.



## Origin



- Halloween is a festival which began in Ireland thousands of years ago called Samhain(夏末节).
- For the ancient Celtic people(people lived in ancient Ireland), the New Year was celebrated on November 1st of every year. So Halloween marked the end of Summer and the beginning of Winter. This time of year was often associated with human death.

The British people celebrate  
Guy Fawkes' Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

That day in 1605 some conspirators  
wanted to blow up the Houses of  
Parliament and kill King James I and  
his ministers. Guy Fawkes was one of them.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnYLWxdHCUI>

Guy Fawkes night nowadays





# Remembrance Day

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



# St. Andrew's Day

The 30<sup>th</sup> of November

He is the patron saint of Scotland.  
This day is marked with a celebration of Scottish culture with traditional Scottish food, music and dance. Schools across Scotland hold special St Andrew's Day events and activities including art shows, Scottish country dancing, lunchtime ceilidhs, dance festivals, storytelling, reciting and writing poems, writing tall tales, cooking traditional Scottish meals, and bagpipe-playing.





# Christmas Day

Christmas is celebrated on the **25th December**. It is the time when Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus. Most people are on holiday in the UK and stay at home with their family on 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





# 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.





**The  
End  
and  
Thank  
you**