



# FESTIVALS & TRADITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

# JANUARY

*New Year's Day (Jan 1)*-the beginning of the new year. People make resolutions.

*Twelfth Night (Jan 6)*-a party after the Christmas break and before the return to work in the fields.



# *CRUFTS DOG SHOW*

In February.

Valuable dogs from all  
over the world  
compete in  
Birmingham.

The best dog gets the  
title Crufts Supreme  
Champion.



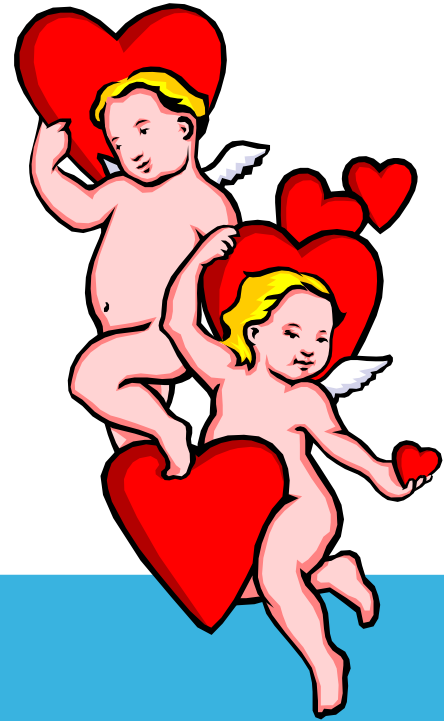
# *SAINTS VALENTINE'S DAY*

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).

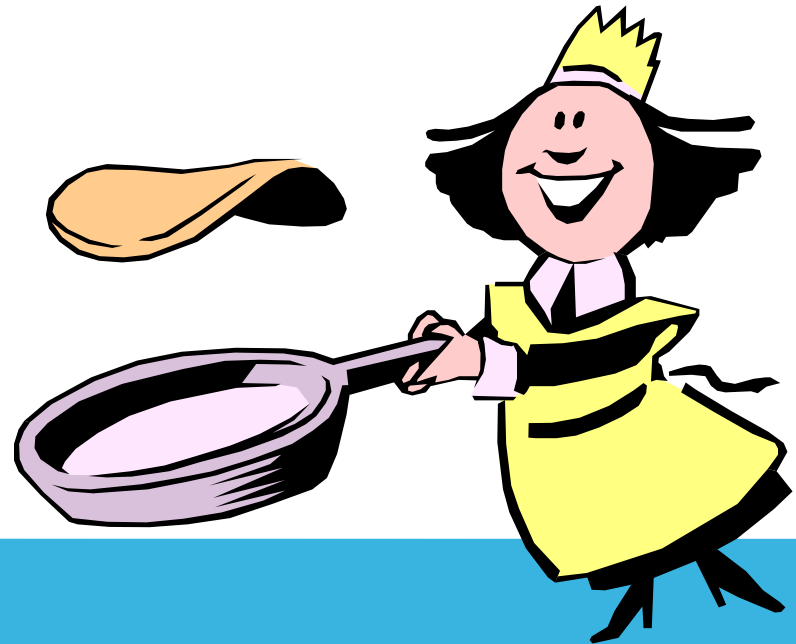


# *PANCAKE DAY*

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.



# APRIL FOOL'S DAY

**April 1**

**A day of practical jokes.**

**You have to play the  
joke before 12  
o'clock midday,  
otherwise the joke is  
on you.**

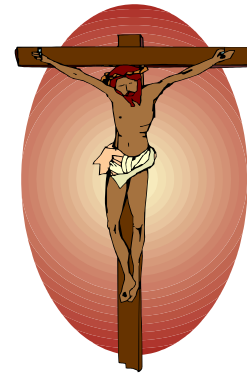


# *GOOD FRIDAY*

The Friday before Easter.

The church marks the death of Christ.

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





# EASTER

In April.

The celebration of the  
Resurrection of Christ

Schools are closed for two  
weeks.

People give each other  
chocolate eggs that are  
wrapped in silver 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.

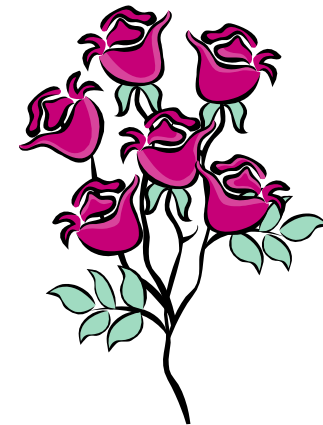


# *CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW*

In May

Britain's most important  
flower and garden show.

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



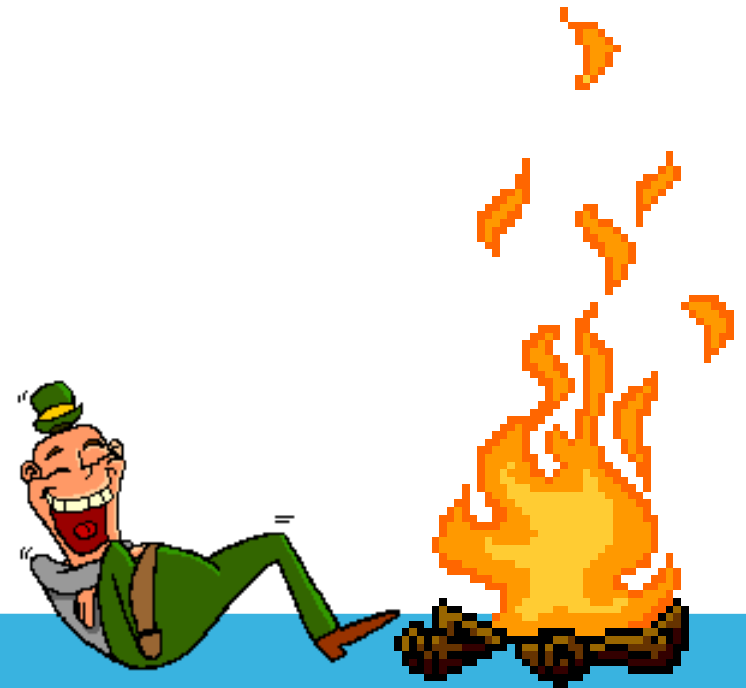
# MIDSUMMER DAY

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.

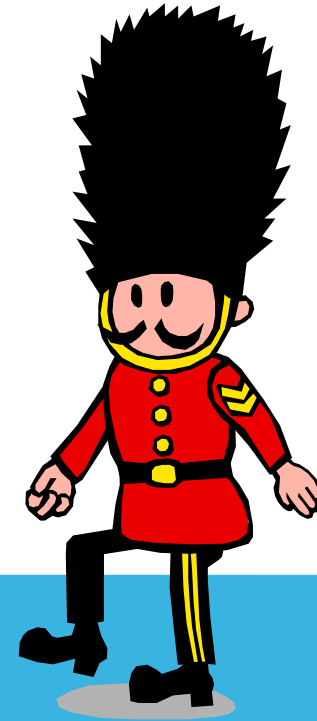


# *TROOPING THE COLOUR*

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 bad weather will  
follow if it rains on this day.

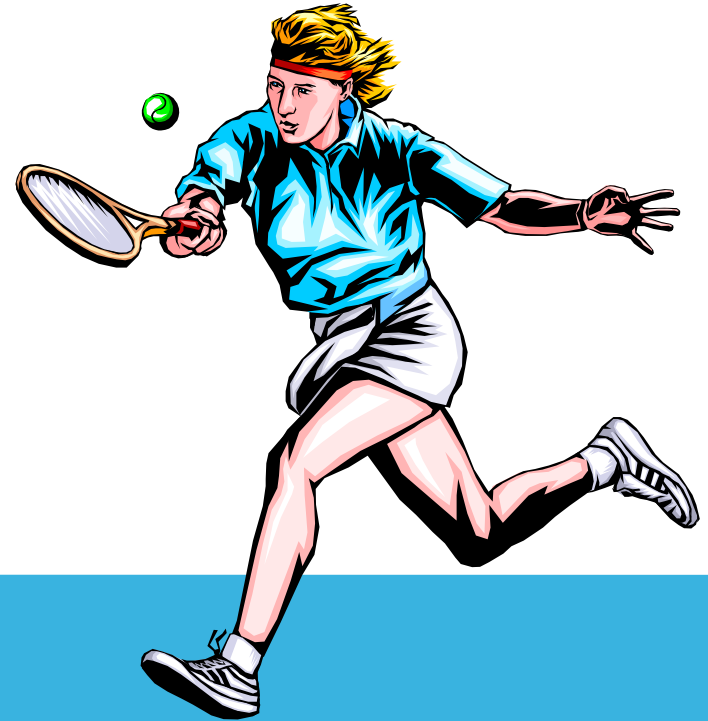


# WIMBLEDON

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.



# 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.



# *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.

