

# TRADITIONS AND HOLIDAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN



- ◎ **In Great Britain people attach greater importance to traditions and customs than in other European countries. Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. The best examples are their queen, money system, their weights and measures.**

- ⦿ **There are many customs and some of them are very old. There is, for example, the Marble Championship, where the British Champion is crowned; he wins a silver cup known among folk dancers as Morris Dancing.**



- ⦿ **Morris Dancing is an event where people, worn in beautiful clothes with ribbons and bells, dance with handkerchiefs or big sticks in their hands, while traditional music-sounds.**



- ◎ **Another example is the Boat Race, which takes place on the river Thames, often on Easter Sunday. A boat with a team from Oxford University and one with a team from Cambridge University hold a race.**



- ◎ **British people think that the Grand National horse race is the most exciting horse race in the world. It takes place near Liverpool every year.**



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.





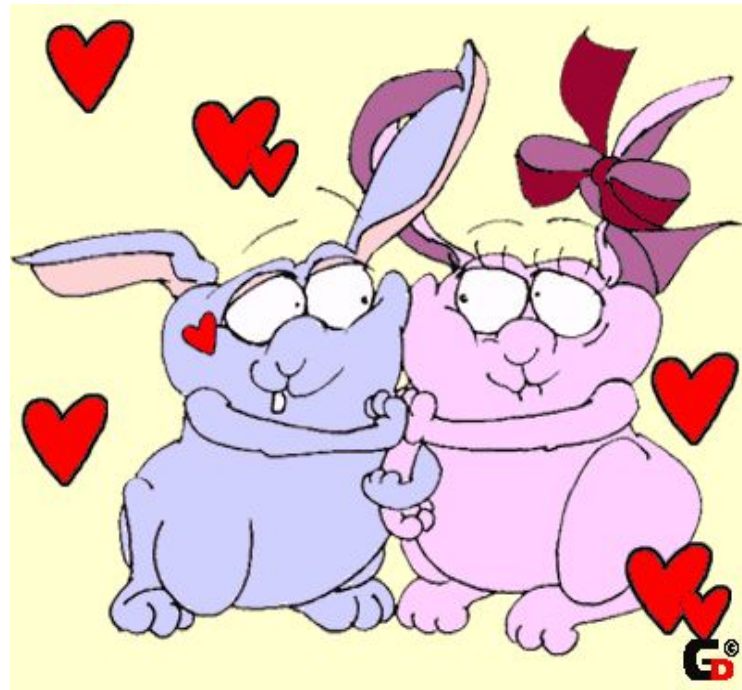
- ◎ **Halloween is a day on which many children dress up in unusual costumes. In fact, this holiday has a Celtic origin. The day was originally called All Halloween's Eve, because it happens on October 31, the eve of all Saint's Day. The name was later shortened to Halloween. The Celts celebrated the coming of New Year on that day.**



- **In the end of the year, there is the most famous New Year celebration. In London, many people go to Trafalgar Square on New Year's Eve. There is singing and dancing at 12 o'clock on December 31st.**



- ◉ **St. Valentine's day**
- ◉ **On the 14th of February there is St. Valentine's Day. People send Valentine's cards to someone they love. Usually they don't sign them – you must guess who sent cards to you**



# 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.



- ⦿ **A popular Scottish event is the Edinburgh Festival of music and drama, which takes place every year. A truly Welsh event is the Eisteddfod, a national festival of traditional poetry and music, with a competition for the best new poem in Welsh.**



# EASTER

- In April or at the end of March English people celebrate Easter Day.
- On Easter Sunday children get chocolate eggs and rabbits.
- 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.





- ⦿ **Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up.**