



## Special days, special events

Here is some information on more special days in Britain.

### Halloween

Halloween (October 31st) is the day before All Saints' Day. On this day the Celtic people of Ireland celebrated the end of summer and the beginning of the Celtic New Year, and they wore scary costumes to chase away ghosts. In the 1840s people from Ireland took this tradition with them to America.

Today people in many parts of the world celebrate Halloween. In Britain, many people have costume parties, or they tell ghost stories or watch horror films. A favourite game on Halloween is apple bobbing. You put your hands behind your back and try to take apples out of the water with your mouth.

Trick-or-treating goes back to an old Christian tradition and is very popular in the USA – but more and more children in Britain do it too. They wear costumes and go from door to door to ask for money or sweets.



The children shout: "Trick or treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat!"

### April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is always on 1st April every year. People often play jokes on each other and say "April Fool!". But only till noon (12:00 p.m.)!



A famous April Fool's Day joke in Britain from 1957: "You can grow spaghetti on trees!" (And people really believed it!)

### What's a bank holiday?

A bank holiday is a special day when the banks and many shops are closed. It's often on a Monday, so people have a long weekend.

### New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve there are parties and fireworks. At midnight, people say "Happy New Year" and sing the song 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Auld Lang Syne [ˌɔld læŋ 'zaɪn] **traditionelles schottisches Lied** ☐ beginning [bɪɡɪnɪŋ] **Anfang** ☐ Celtic ['keltɪk] **keltisch** ☐ to chase away [tʃeɪs ə'weɪ] **verjagen** ☐ Christian ['krɪstʃən] **christlich** ☐ ghost [ɡəʊst] **Gespens** ☐ to grow [ɡrəʊ] **hier: anbauen** ☐ to play a joke [dʒəʊk] **einen Streich spielen** ☐ spaghetti [spə'ɡeti] **Spaghetti**