



Special days, special events

Here is some information on more special days in Britain.

Christmas

Before Christmas, people send each other Christmas cards. They often see a nativity play or go to a carol service. It's fun to sing Christmas carols!

British people celebrate Christmas on 25 December. Young children hang up socks the night before, on Christmas Eve. Father Christmas fills them with presents or puts presents under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, people wish each other "Merry Christmas". They open their presents and then they have an early Christmas dinner. At a typical Christmas dinner people eat roast turkey and Christmas pudding. Before they have their dinner, people pull Christmas crackers. In the afternoon, the Queen gives a speech on television.

In Britain, people call 26 December 'Boxing Day'. (This has nothing to do with the sport 'boxing'. The name comes from Christmas boxes.)

April Fool's Day

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

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 most people have a long weekend.

New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve there are parties and fireworks. When Big Ben strikes midnight, people wish each other "Happy New Year" and sing the song 'Auld Lang Syne'.



A typical Christmas dinner table with a turkey. And of course with crackers too!



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

Auld Lang Syne [ˌɔːld læŋ ˈzɑːn] **traditionelles schottisches Lied** ○ carol service [ˈkærəl ˌsɜːvɪs] **Weihnachtssingen** ○ Christmas carol [ˈkrɪsməs ˌkærəl] **Weihnachtslied** ○ Christmas cracker [ˈkrɪsməs ˌkrækə] **Knallbonbon** ○ Christmas Eve [ˌkrɪsməs ˈiːv] **Heiligabend** ○ to give a speech [spiːtʃ] **eine Rede halten** ○ nativity play [nəˈtɪvɪti ˌpleɪ] **Krippenspiel** ○ to play a joke [dʒəʊk] **einen Streich spielen** ○ roast turkey [ˈrəʊst ˈtɜːki] **Putenbraten** ○ spaghetti [spəˈɡæti] **Spaghetti** ○ to strike [straɪk] **schlagen**