

# UNUSUAL CUSTOMS IN THE UK

НАУЧНЫЙ  
РУКОВОДИТЕЛЬ  
АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА:  
ПРОНИНА НАДЕЖДА  
ВИКТОРОВНА

РАБОТА УЧЕНИЦ:  
ЧАХКИЕВОЙ ЕЛИЗАВЕТЫ  
КЛЕНИНОЙ ЕЛИЗАВЕТЫ  
КЛЕНИНОЙ ЕЛЕНЫ  
МАХМЕТОВОЙ МАРИИ  
КИРЯНИНОЙ АННЫ  
УЧЕНИЦ 6 «Б» И 4 «Б» КЛАССОВ  
СРЕДНЕЙ ШКОЛЫ № 169

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# A Calendar of Unusual Customs in the UK



November



December



January



February



October



March



September



April



August



July



June



May



*January*

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**THE HAXEY HOOD,  
TAR BARREL BURNING,  
UP-HELLY-AA.**

# February

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*Blessing the throats  
ceremony,  
Clowns in church.*

# May

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**Cheese rolling ,  
Maypole Dancing,  
Sweeps festival.**



# *NOVEMBER*

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## **TAR BARREL BURNING**



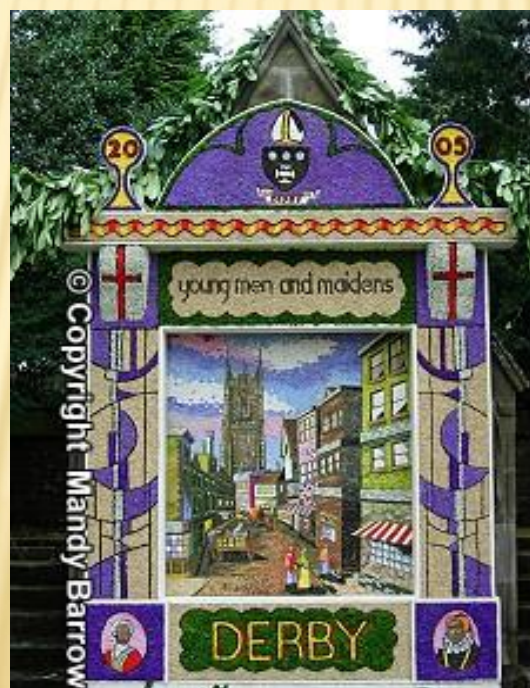
# Well Dressing



**Well dressing is the art of decorating (dressing) wells, springs or other water sources with pictures made of growing things.**

**The wells are dressed with large framed panels decorated with elaborate mosaic-like pictures made of flower petals, seeds, grasses, leaves, tree bark, berries and moss.**

**Wooden trays are covered with clay, mixed with water and salt. A design is drawn and its outline pricked out onto the surface of the clay.**



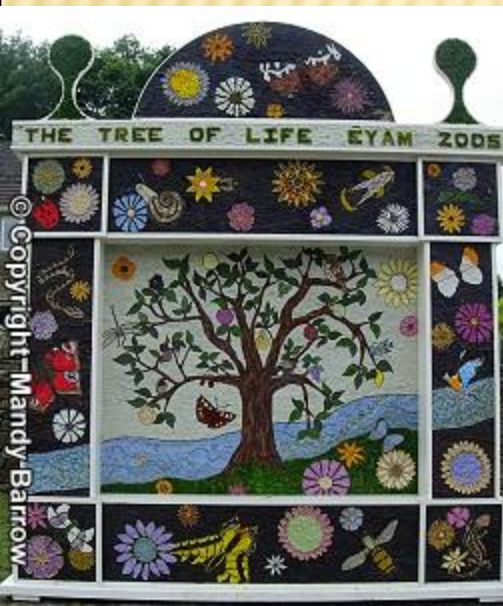
**The design is then filled in with natural materials, predominantly flower petals and mosses, but also beans, seeds and small cones.**



Well-dressings are beautiful and delicate and take a lot of work to make, and yet they only last for a few days.

After the well dressing is erected next to the well it is blessed in a short outdoor service.

The well dressing season spans from May through to late September.







At Whittlesey, on the weekend  
following Plough Monday At

Whittlesey, on the weekend  
following Plough Monday the first  
Monday after Twelfth Night ) a  
straw bear is paraded around the  
town attended by a host of dancers  
and musician from all over the  
country. The bear is a man covered  
from head to foot in a straw  
costume.

During the 19th century Straw  
Bears - men or boys clothed in a  
layer of straw - were a familiar  
Plough Monday .

Takes place Whittlesey,  
Peterborough



# Maypole Dancing

*tradition of May 1st.*

*On May Day, teams of dancers perform intricate patterns whilst circling the pole. The ribbons interweave as they make their way down the pole with a very decorative result.*



Ashover Brownies, Derbyshire





# Sweeps Festival

**Sweeps Festival**, Rochester, Kent.

This occurs in the first weekend in May.

A **May Day** Celebration.

The festival owes its roots to age old traditions. Sweeping chimneys was a dirty but necessary trade nearly 300 years ago.

Sweeps Festival is said to be the largest gathering of Morris Dancers in the world. Notably, the only true English day where you can join in and listen to the music.

# Hurling the Silver Ball

A Handball Game Hurling  
is one of the oldest forms  
of a ball game and still  
takes place at St Ives in  
Cornwall, England, on the  
first Monday after  
February 3rd.

The game is played in the  
town's streets and on the  
beach. The game starts at  
10.30 am and the person  
holding the silver ball at  
noon wins.



# Bread and Cheese Throwing

Whit Sunday Evening after the evening service at the church in St Briavels, Gloucestershire, baskets full of bread and cheese are thrown from a wall near the old castle. Everyone scrambles to grab as many pieces of food as they can.

# Blessing the Throats Ceremony

St Etheldreda's Church,  
London

February 3rd St Blaise's  
day

Two candles are tied  
together, lit, and touched  
on to the necks of people  
suffering from sore  
throats.

St Blaise saved a child  
from choking to death on  
a fishbone and so is  
patron saint of throat  
sufferers.





# Bacup Nutters Dance

Easter Holy Saturday - Bacup near Rochdale, Lancashire. The Nutter Dance is a form of Morris dance. One main difference is they blacken their faces. This probably came about because of the mining connections. They wear hats like turbans decorated with rosette and coloured feathers, black jersey, red and white kilts, white stockings and shining black Lancashire clogs. The dancers dance their way through the streets following a tradition that takes them from boundary to boundary of the Town. They tap out rhythms on wooden discs or 'nuts' fastened to their palms, knees and waist. This is thought to represent the protective cover worn on the hands and knees when crawling along narrow passages in the mines.

# Turning the Devils Stone

## Turning the Devils Stone

On Guy Fawkes night, the villagers of Shebbear in Devon turn over a large stone under an ancient oak tree. The Stone is a large rock weighing about 1 tonne, and is not made from local stone. No-one is sure how it comes to be there.

The legends include tales that the Stone has been moved away from Shebbear a number of times, but it mysteriously keeps returning. Another legend says that this is because the Devil is under the stone and would escape if the stone is not turned.