EASTER CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS IN Great Britain

Easter has been celebrated in the UK from a very long time. This feast is accompanied by lots of different events. One of the traditions is Egg Gift. The first eggs given at Easter were birds’ eggs. These eggs were painted in bright colours and given to others, most often children. Kids in the UK love them.

Another custom connected with eggs is Easter Egg Hunt. Small chocolate eggs are hidden for children to find on the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. In recent years this game has been linked to Easter Bunny. It is a character depicted as a rabbit bringing Easter eggs. In legends, the creature carries a basket with coloured eggs, candies and sometimes also toys.

Another important tradition is Morris dancing. It is a traditional English form of folk dance which is also performed in other English-speaking countries such as the USA and Australia. The roots of Morris dancing seem to be very old, probably dating back to the Middle Ages. In the dance men dress up in costumes with hats and ribbons and bells around their ankles. They dance through the streets and one man often carries an inflated pig’s bladder on the end of a stick. Men will run up to young women in the street and hit them over the head with the bladder. This is supposed to be lucky.

The best known Easter tradition is special food eaten at Easter. After the lean months of winter and the fast weeks of Lent, food at Easter was always a special treat. Boiled eggs are traditionally served at breakfast. Roast lamb, which is the main dish at Jewish Passover, is the traditional meat for the main meal on Easter Day. It is served with mint sauce and vegetables. The traditional Easter pudding is custard tarts sprinkled with currants and flat Easter biscuits.

Additionally, in Great Britain hot cross buns are baked. These small, lightly sweet yeast buns contain raisins or currants and sometimes chopped candied fruit. Before baking, a cross is slashed in the top of the bun, and then sugar icing is used to fill the cross. They were first baked in England to be served on Good Friday.

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