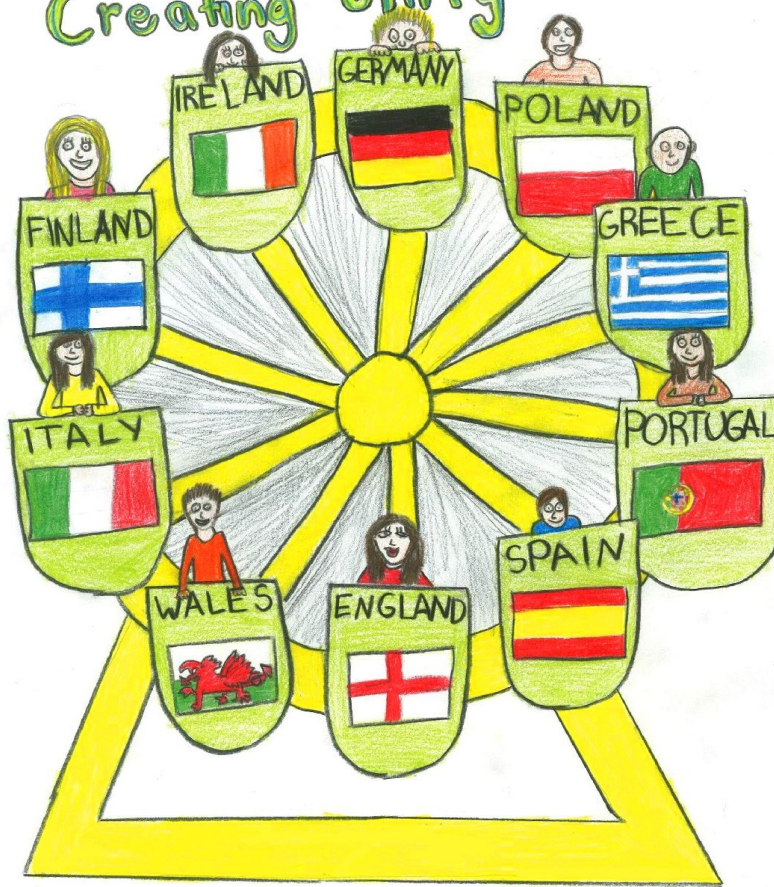


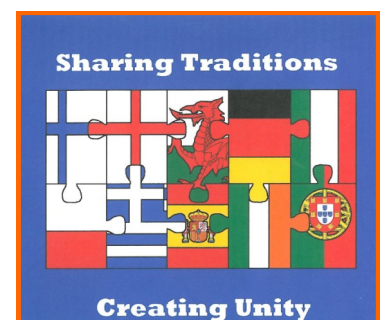
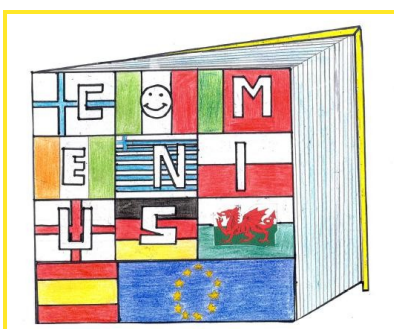


Sharing traditions  
and

Creating unity



# COMENIUS CALENDAR 2013





#### IN WALES

**St. Dwynwen** is the Welsh patron saint of lovers, which makes her the Welsh equivalent of St Valentine. Dwynwen lived during the 5th century and legend has it that she was one of

the prettiest of Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. Dwynwen fell in love with a prince called Maelon Dafodrill, but unfortunately her father had already arranged that she should marry someone else. Because she was not allowed to marry Maelon, she begged an angel to help her forget about him. We usually make heart shaped biscuits, or making something heart shaped to give to someone special.

#### GREECE

##### EPIPHANY

One of the biggest religious celebrations in Greece. The day before, a priest goes round the houses and blesses people and houses with holy water. In the morning, people take holy water from the church and drink it. Then they all go to the sea and usually a bishop throws a cross into the sea. Immediately men dive into the water to catch it and take it back to the bishop who blesses them.



#### IN U. KINGDOM

##### Twelfth Night

The day all Christmas decorations should be taken down

#### IN POLAND

##### Three Kings' day

This feste is celebrated with parades of three wise men with exotic animals and children dressed in renaissance costumes. Epiphany in Poland also signals the beginning of "zapusty" or Carnival time.

#### IN ITALY (Trevi)

St. Emilian died as Martyr on the 28th of January 303.

The millenary olive tree known as St. Emilian's Olive Tree. In the Passio Sancti Miliani Martiris one reads: "he was tied to a young olive tree to be stabbed". It is thought to be the oldest olive tree in Umbria.



#### Torch-lit Procession (Trevi)

This is the oldest and longest - standing procession in Umbria, dating back to the Middle Ages.

From immemorial time on the evening of 27th JANUARY at 6.30 pm, the procession winds its way along the torch-lit streets, the statue of the Patron Saint Emiliano preceded by 'cerei' or floats prepared and organised by the local businesses and workshops.

## January 2013

**Befana** is usually portrayed as an old woman riding a broomstick through the air, wearing a black shawl and is covered in soot because she enters the children's houses through the chimneys. A popular belief is that her name derives from the Feast of Epiphany.

In popular folklore **Befana** visits all the children of Italy on the Eve of the Feast of the Epiphany to fill their stockings with candy and presents if they are good or a lump of coal or dark candy if they are bad. Being a good housekeeper, many say she will sweep the floor before she leaves. The child's family typically leaves a small glass of wine and a plate with a few morsels of food, often regional or local, for the Befana.



#### IN IRELAND

##### Women's Christmas

Little Christmas is also called **Women's Christmas** (Irish: *Nollaig na mBan*), and sometimes *Women's Little Christmas*. The tradition, still very strong in **Cork** and **Kerry** is so called because of the Irish men taking on all the household duties for the day. Most women hold parties or go out to celebrate the day with their friends, sisters, mothers, and aunts. Bars and restaurants serve mostly women and girls on this night. Children often buy presents for their mothers and grandmothers.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 WALES U. KINGDOM IRELAND FINLAND SPAIN ITALY GERMANY GREECE New Year's day	2 U. KINGDOM Bank Holiday	3	4	5 U. KINGDOM Twelfth Night	6 POLAND - SPAIN PORTUGAL Three Kings' day ITALY - GREECE FINLAND Epiphany IRELAND Women's Christmas
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 WALES Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen	26	27 ITALY Torch-lit Procession Memory's Day
28 ITALY St. Emilian's Day	29	30 GREECE The 3 Holy Hierarchs	31			





### IN IRELAND St. Brigid's Day

St Brigid is our female patron Saint of Ireland. Her feast day is on the first of February.

She performed many miracles and built Churches and Convents. At School children make St Brigid's crosses on this day out of rushes. They are put up in each child's house, to protect the house from Fires.

### IN ITALY St.Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is annually celebrated on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This holiday was established two centuries after St Valentine died as a martyr around 270 A.C. His remains are in the Church of Terni (Umbria region). On this day the lovers exchange gifts, flowers and chocolate.



### U. KINGDOM Candlemas Day

Candles for use in churches are usually blessed

### IN POLAND Fat Thursday

People meet in their homes or cafés with their friends and relatives and eat large quantities of sweets, cakes and other meals forbidden during Lent. Among the most popular all-national dishes served on that day are paczki or berliner, fist-sized donuts filled with rose marmalade, and faworki.



### IN GERMANY Carnival

People wear fancy dresses. At school we celebrate a big party.



## February 2013

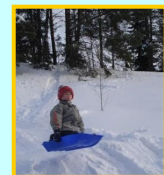
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 IRELAND St. Brigid's Day GERMANY Pupils get their half term school reports	2 U. KINGDOM Candlemas Day	3
4	5	6	7 POLAND ITALY SPAIN PORTUGAL Fat Thursday	8	9	10
11	12 POLAND SPAIN FINLAND ITALY Shrove Tuesday U. KINGDOM Pancake Day IRELAND WALES Pancake Day	13 POLAND U. KINGDOM IRELAND Ash Wednesday	14 U. KINGDOM ITALY IRELAND SPAIN St. Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18 GERMANY Carnival party	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



### IN FINLAND

Seven weeks before Easter - Shrovetide  
Shrove Tuesday (Laskiainen)

The day preceding the first day of lent  
-Finns traditionally eat pea soup with pork and Shrove buns with whipped cream  
-Sledge riding and playing outside in the snow are popular activities



### IN ITALY - Carnival

It comes from Latin "carnem levare" (to leave meat) and it is an invitation not to eat meat. It is linked to Lent that starts after the abundance of the feasts. In Italy, in every town, there is the celebration of Carnival and it is celebrated with parades, masquerade parties, entertainment and music. Fat Tuesday is the end of Carnival. The typical sweets made for Carnival are "Bugie" or "Frappes".

### IN IRELAND - IN WALES Pancake Day

Traditionally Pancake Tuesday was known as Shrove Tuesday. It is always the day before Ash Wednesday which is a time when Catholics begin a forty day fast called Lent.

Long ago people gave up loads of food including meat and eggs for Lent, so in order not to waste food they would use up everything the day before Lent.

They would make Pancakes to use up all the eggs, and this became known as Shrove Tuesday.

Even though People do not give up as much for Lent nowadays, the custom has survived and has become known as Pancake Tuesday.

Everyone eats Pancakes on this day, mostly with lemon and sugar but many other toppings are becoming popular.

## IN POLAND

### The first day of Spring -Drowning Morena

The vivid tradition of burning or drowning an effigy of Marzanna ( Morena ) to celebrate the end of winter.

In Poland, this is often performed during a field trip by children in kindergartens and primary schools. The effigy can range in size from a puppet to a life-size dummy. This ritual represents the end of the dark days of winter, the victory over death, and the welcoming of the spring rebirth.



## IN FINLAND

### Easter Pääsiäinen

- Easter is the most important religious festival in Finland
- Traditional food: lamb, painted eggs, Finnish Easter pudding (mämmi)



## IN WALES

### St. David's Day

St David's Day is celebrated in Wales on 1st March, in honour of Dewi Sant or St David, the patron saint of Wales. Food—Leek soup. All children dress up in red or as little welsh ladies.



## IN PORTUGAL

"Folar": on Easter, godfathers and godmothers traditionally offer their children a gift: in the past it used to be a big cake (including cooked eggs); some people still do this, but most give their godchildren Money or other presents.



## IN IRELAND

### St. Patrick's Day

St Patricks Day is one of Irelands most Famous festivals.

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is responsible for bringing the Word of God to Ireland in 432 Ad.

St Patricks Day is on March 17<sup>th</sup> and is a national holiday.

People celebrate St Patricks day by wearing green on the day and usually a Shamrock on their clothes.

St Patrick used the Shamrock to explain about God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.

Many towns and villages have a Saint Patricks day parade on this day, including music and dancing displays.

People come from all over the world to be in Ireland on Saint Patricks Day.



## IN GREECE - Carnival

It is celebrated 50 days before Easter. It is celebrated throughout Greece in a very traditional way with many local costumes, dances and customs. However, Patra's Carnival is very different as its roots are in the 19th century in the Italian way of celebrating. Today there is a long parade with groups of masqueraders and floats satirizing political and social events and people. There is also a children's parade a week earlier. Competitions, a 'Treasure Hunt' and many fancy dress parties. On Fat Thursday, people eat a lot of meat and souvlakia and the whole city smells great!



## IN GREECE

### National Celebration

National celebration in memory of the beginning of the revolution against the Turks in 1821 after 400 years of occupation. Schools have a celebration with poems, short plays and traditional dances. There is a parade in every town. People usually eat fish with 'scordalia' (mashed potatoes with garlic).

# March 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
		IN POLAND Palm Sunday		1 U. KINGDOM WALES St. David's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7 GREECE Fat Thursday	8 POLAND ITALY Women's Day	9	10 U. KINGDOM Mother's Day WALES Mothering Sunday
11 GERMANY Circus project	12	13	14	15	16	17 U. KINGDOM IRELAND St. Patrick's Day GREECE Carnival
18 GREECE Clean Monday	19 ITALY St. Joseph's day SPAIN Father's day	20	21 POLAND Drowning Morena	22	23	24 U. KINGDOM POLAND Palm Sunday
25 GREECE National Celebration	26	27	28 U. KINGDOM Maundy Thursday	29 U. KINGDOM POLAND SPAIN Good Friday	30 POLAND Holy Saturday	31 U. KINGDOM British Summertime IRELAND - POLAND SPAIN - FINLAND WALES - ITALY PORTUGAL GERMANY Easter Sunday

## IN GERMANY

### The Circus project

The circus project is great, there are animals, too . And show our performances in a big circus arena in a tent and our parents, grandparents and people from town visit our performances. Pupils and teachers have a lot of fun .



## IN SPAIN - EASTER

Easter is also celebrated differently depending on what region of Spain you go to. All the Mediterranean coast regions, that is where we are from, celebrate Easter eating mona. This tradition goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and it is linked to Christianity as it symbolizes the end of Lent during which starving was imposed.

Originally it was a bread roll with eggs on the top. The quantity of eggs was the age of the child who received it being 13 the last year receiving it. The person in charge of giving la mona to children is the godfather.

All along the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the mona has changed a lot and it is now a cake which can be decorated in the flavor one wishes. What still remains from ancient times is the use of the egg, which symbolizes the beginning of life, that is on the top of the cake and it is made of chocolate.







#### IN SPAIN

##### Saint George's day

Saint George's day remembers the legend of Saint George and the dragon. Traditionally speaking, it is the day of love in Catalonia. During this day people

exchange roses and books: men give a rose to the loved woman who, in exchange, gives a book to the beloved.

It is believed that the tradition of giving a rose dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. At that time roses were given to women attending the mass in Palau de la Generalitat in Barcelona.

The rose was accompanied with a landmark and a year of corn. Red roses symbolize passion and corn, fertility.

#### IN POLAND

##### Easter Monday and Śmigus-Dyngus Day

Boys awake girls by pouring a bucket of water on their head and striking them about the legs with long thin twigs or switches made from willow, birch or decorated tree branches.



## April 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>1</b> U. KINGDOM WALES - IRELAND GREECE April Fools Day FINLAND Easter POLAND - ITALY SPAIN Easter Monday and Śmigus-Dyngus Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> U. KINGDOM Queen Elizabeth's Birthday
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> U. KINGDOM SPAIN St. George's Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> ITALY Liberation Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					

#### IN ITALY

##### Liberation Day

The Anniversary of the Liberation of Italy (also known as Liberation Day, the anniversary of the Resistance or simply April 25th) is celebrated in Italy on April 25th of each year and it is an important day in the history of Italy: the end of the Nazi occupation, which took place April 25th, 1945, at the end of World War II. The Liberation puts an end to twenty years of fascist dictatorship and five years of war, it represents the beginning of a historical path that will lead to the referendum of 2 June 1946 to choose between monarchy and republic, and the birth of the Italian Republic, until the final draft of the Constitution.



### IN FINLAND

#### The 1st of May Vappu

-Festival of working class and students  
-Carnival, mainly celebrated in towns and cities  
-Welcome the long awaited summer!  
-Traditional food: a homemade drink called sima, donut pastry, may-day fritter (tippaleipä).



### IN ITALY

#### Calendimaggio

It's a popular festival which takes place every year in Assisi. Its origins are to be found among the ancient customs of many different people and in the Medieval tradition. This town celebrates the arrival of Spring with songs, poems, historical parades, scenes of medieval life and medieval contests in which the "upper" and the "lower" parts of the town take part and compete to win the "Palio". The victory is decreed by a panel of judges.



### IN POLAND

#### Constitution Day

Polish national and public holiday that takes place on May the 3rd. The holiday celebrates the declaration of the Constitution of May the 3rd, 1791. This day, free from work, sees many parades, exhibitions, concerts and public figure speeches.

### IN WALES

#### Eisteddfod yr Urdd

Last week of May  
It is a Festival to celebrate young Welsh talent in singing, dancing, reciting and acting.



### IN ITALY

#### The Race of the Candles

This festival takes place in Gubbio in honour of St. Ubaldo. Its origins date probably to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the Commune, after an important victory in a war against enemy cities, decided to celebrate the event and express gratitude to him. The race winds through the town streets and finishes at the Basilica of St. Ubaldo.



### IN POLAND

#### Corpus Christi

Eucharistic procession is celebrated with the assistance of people dressed in folklore costumes.



### IN GREECE - Greek Orthodox Easter

The biggest religious celebration in Greece. The week leading to Easter plays a major role and services are held every morning and evening. Traditionally people fast. On Holy Saturday, just before midnight people go to church. At midnight the bells ring and the people light their special Easter candles with the Holy Flame that is given by the priest. When the ceremony finishes people go home with their candles lit. On Easter Sunday all the families get together and roast a lamb on the spit in the open. They crack red-dyed boiled eggs and see whose egg is the strongest and cracks all the others! dancing, singing and eating takes place while visiting friends, relatives and neighbours.



### IN PORTUGAL

#### Religious pilgrimage to Fátima

This date is celebrated in the Sanctuary of Fátima and it commemorates the 1st appearance of the Virgin Mary to the three little shepherds in Cova da Iria (Fátima).

### IN GERMANY

#### May sports festival

We go by bus or bike to the sports ground!  
We throw the ball, do the long jump and we run the 60 metres!  
Some pupils do the relay race!  
We eat sausages for lunch!



## May 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 FINLAND The 1st of May GREECE SPAIN POLAND ITALY Workers' Day	2 ITALY Calendimaggio	3 POLAND Constitution Day GREECE Good Friday	4	5 SPAIN Mother's day GREECE Easter
6 U. KINGDOM May Day	7	8 GERMANY May sports festival	9 GERMANY Father's Day	10	11	12 FINLAND ITALY Mother's Day
13 PORTUGAL Religious pilgrimage to Fátima	14	15 ITALY The Race of the Candles	16	17	18	19 POLAND ITALY Pentecostal Day GERMANY May Whitsun
20	21	22 PORTUGAL Day of the City (Leiria)	23	24	25 WALES Eisteddfod yr Urdd	26
27 U. KINGDOM Whitsun	28	29	30 POLAND Corpus Christi	31		



### IN POLAND

St. John's Eve or Sobótki (southern Poland) or Kupala Night (eastern Poland)

Traditional folk rituals include groups of young men and women singing ritual songs to each other. The young women may wear crowns fashioned from wild flowers, which are later thrown into a nearby pond or lake. The boys/young men may then swim out to claim one of the crowns. Bonfires (and bonfire jumping) are also part of the proceedings.



### IN GERMANY

Water games festival

The water games festival is summer holidays ago. The kids jump into the water and get a drink. The Neptune is very nice but scary, too. All kids have fun.



IN GERMANY  
All Year 6 pupils get their final school reports.

### IN PORTUGAL

World Children's Day – "Little MPs" project

Children are members of the City Assembly for a day (with full powers) and their decisions there have to be implemented.



### IN GERMANY

Kids Day

We celebrate a big party at school.

We go to the festival hall.

We play different games in the classrooms and in the playground.

# June 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 SPAIN GERMANY Kids Day PORTUGAL World Children's Day FINLAND The end of school term	2 ITALY The Republic Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 PORTUGAL Day of Camões	11	12	13 PORTUGAL St Anthony's celebration	14 U. KINGDOM Trooping the Colour	15	16 U. KINGDOM WALES Father's Day
17 GERMANY Water games festival	18 GERMANY End of year 6	19	20 GERMANY Beginning of summer holidays	21 FINLAND Midsummer	22	23 POLAND St. John's Eve SPAIN St. John's Day
24 PORTUGAL St John's celebrations	25	26	27	28	29	30

### IN SPAIN

Saint Joan's day

The night of Saint Joan is a festival of ancient origin that is usually linked to light fires or linked to celebrations of the Summer solstice arrival. Its main rite is a fire. The purpose of this ritual was to give more power to the Sun which is becoming stronger when the Summer comes. Symbolically, fires also have a cleansing purpose on the people watching them. The solstice is celebrated in all Europe but it is particularly strong in the Southern countries.

In many places these celebrations have a direct influence of pre-Christian rites. In Spain, the celebration usually takes place during the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and in many towns and villages there are bonfires in squares and streets where people meet together. People also celebrate the day eating typical coques.



### IN FINLAND

Midsummer Juhannus

- The Finns gather together and celebrate on the summer cottages, barbecue, go to sauna and swim and have bonfires by the lake
- The nights near Midsummer are short or non-existent (midnight sun).



### IN ITALY The Republic Day

The Republic Day is celebrated in Italy on June 2nd each year. The day commemorates the institutional referendum held by universal suffrage in 1946, in which the Italian people were called to the polls to decide on the form of government, following the Second World War and the fall of Fascism. With 12,717,923 votes for a republic and 10,719,284 for the monarchy, the male descendants of the House of Savoy were sent into exile. To commemorate it, a grand military parade is held in central Rome, presided over by the President of the Italian Republic in his role as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.



**U. KINGDOM**  
**St. Swithun's Day**

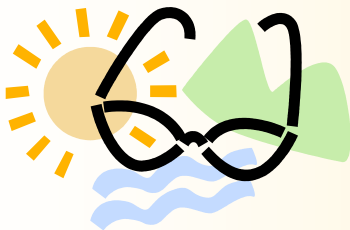
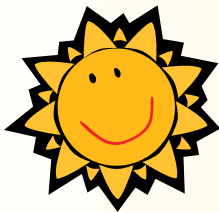
St. Swithun's Day is 15 July, a day on which people watch the weather for tradition says that whatever the weather is like on St. Swithun's Day, it will continue so for the next forty days.  
There is a weather-rhyme that is well known throughout the British Isles since Elizabethan times.

**'St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St. Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.'**

St. Swithun (or more properly, Swithun) was a Saxon Bishop of Winchester. He was born in the kingdom of Wessex and educated in its capital, Winchester. He was famous for charitable gifts and building churches.

A legend says that as the Bishop lay on his deathbed, he asked to be buried out doors, where he would be trodden on and rained on. For nine years, his wishes were followed, but then, the monks of Winchester attempted to remove his remains to a splendid shrine inside the cathedral on 15 July 971.

According to legend there was a heavy rain storm either during the ceremony or on its anniversary.



**IN WALES**


**International Eisteddfod Llangollen**

From 9th to 13th July 2013

When choirs, dancers etc come to Llangollen from all over the World to compete.



# July 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 WALES International Eisteddfod Llangollen	10	11	12	13	14
15 U. KINGDOM St. Swithun's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



#### IN IRELAND

The Rose of Tralee festival is now held annually at the end of August in Tralee, County Kerry, to choose a young woman to be crowned the Rose. The winning Rose is the woman deemed to best match the attributes relayed in the song The rose of tralee: "lovely and fair". The winner is selected based on her personality and should be a good role model for the festival and for Ireland during her travels around the world.



#### IN IRELAND

##### Puck Fair

Every year a group of people go up into the mountains and catch a wild goat. The goat is brought back to the town and the "Queen of Puck", traditionally a young school girl from the local primary schools who crowns the goat "King Puck". The "King" is then put into a small cage on a high stand in the middle of the town square which signifies that the festivities may begin. **Markets** Tradition dictates that a horse fair takes place on the first day and on the second day there is a cattle fair. There is usually a large amount street vendors during the festival who advertise their wares to the tourists who come to Killorglin in large volumes for the fair



#### IN GERMANY

##### First day at school for year 1

The little children come to school and get their sugar bags filled with sweets and little presents their learn to know their class teachers



## August 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3 GERMANY First day at school for year1	4
5 GERMANY Start of a new school year	6	7	8	9	10	11 IRELAND Puck Fair
12	13	14	15 IRELAND 15th of August GREECE POLAND ITALY Assumption Day	16	17	18 IRELAND Rose of Tralee
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 U. KINGDOM Summer Bank Holiday	27	28	29	30	31	



#### IN IRELAND

##### This is Our Lady's Feast Day

Thanksgiving to Our Lady for a good harvest is celebrated all around Ireland. In Kenmare a traditional market day takes place. All local farming activities are celebrated on this one day festival. Local traditional music and dance is celebrated. People set up stalls where they sell animals and local foods.



#### IN POLAND

##### Assumption Day



### IN POLAND

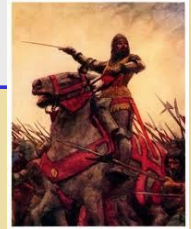
#### Harvest Festival

People prepare wheat or rye wreaths decorated with ginger berries, nuts, flowers and branches as an offering for successful harvest. The celebration also includes singing hymns, praying and decorating churches with fruit baskets.

### IN WALES

#### Owain Glyndwr Day

Owain Glyndŵr (Welsh pronunciation, or Owain Glyn Dŵr, (c. 1349 or 1359 – c. 1416) was a Welsh ruler and the last native Welshman to hold the title Prince of Wales. He instigated a fierce and long-running but ultimately unsuccessful revolt against the English rule of Wales.



### IN ITALY (Foligno)

#### Giostra della Quintana

The historical center of Foligno is traditionally divided into twenty rioni ("quarters"). Only ten of them are officially recognised and can take part in the **Giostra della Quintana**.

The Giostra della Quintana is a knight ring Jousting tournament based on a historical event. It takes place in the Town of Foligno (a city near Trevi). Actually the challenges take place in June (1st Challenge) during a Saturday night and September (the counter-challenge) the 2nd or 3rd Sunday of September.

The definition of Quintana comes from the 5th road of the Roman military Camps, where the soldiers were trained in lance fighting. They run against a dummy-soldier, trying to catch a ring hanging from an arm of the dummy. Here the origin of the Tournament's name, but the first definition and documented "Quintana" as a knights' jousting tournament during a festival, dates back to 1448. Since then, in Foligno, the "Quintana" was held uninterruptedly every year. In 1946 the actual "Giostra della Quintana" was reborn. There were ten knights each representing a part of the Town. Galloping, they have to catch 3 rings getting smaller size at each turn. The rings are hanging from a rotating statue representing Mars the God of War from the Roman myth.

A number of events involve the whole town and a parade of 800 people dressed in original-like precious dresses walk in the town the day before the Joust takes place.

## September 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 ITALY Giostra della Quintana
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 WALES Owain Glyndwr Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 POLAND Harvest Festival	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 GERMANY Autumn holidays						





#### IN WALES

##### Harvest thanksgiving

A religious celebration to thank the farmers for the harvest. It's also an opportunity to thank everyone including parents, teachers etc.



#### IN PORTUGAL

##### Bread Day

##### International Food Day

Soup Festival. Parents eating at school.  
Bread Fest.  
Traditional Market (selling healthy products)

#### IN ITALY

##### Ottobre trevano

A historical parade with 500 people in medieval costume takes place in the city's streets. Scenes of Medieval life are performed by 300 people in perfect period costumes.



The manifestation is a race between three carts representing the "Terzieri" (The town's districts). A single person known as "Balio" must wrench free the key to the tower from the bust (in wood, representing the "Saracen") and sound the bell symbolizing that the city has been reconquered.



#### IN GREECE

National celebration. The beginning of the 2nd World War in 1940 when Italy asked the Greek Prime Minister to surrender the country and he said 'NO'. There is a celebration in every school and a parade in every town.



**Black Celery Market and Fair** dedicated to the delicious local Black Celery (a type of celery with a long white stalk and very dark green leaves).



## October 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3 GERMANY Day of German unity	4 ITALY St Francis Patron Saint of Italy	5 ITALY Ottobre trevano	6 ITALY Palio dei Terzieri
7	8	9	10	11	12 POLAND Teacher's Day SPAIN Columbus Day	13
14	15 WALES Harvest thanksgiving	16 PORTUGAL Bread Day International Food Day	17	18	19	20 ITALY Black Celery Market and Fair
21	22	23	24	25	26 ITALY Scenes of Medieval	27 U. KINGDOM British Summertime
28 GREECE National Celebration	29 	30	31 U. KINGDOM IRELAND WALES ITALY Halloween GERMANY Reformation Day SPAIN La Castanyada			

#### IN SPAIN

##### La Castanyada

It is a popular festival celebrated in Catalonia. It consists of a meal of chestnuts, *panellets*, sweet potato and preserved fruits. Around



the time of this celebration, it is common for street vendors to sell hot toasted chestnuts wrapped in newspaper.

It seems that the tradition of eating these foods comes from the fact that during All Saints' night, the night before All Souls' Day in the Christian tradition, bell ringers would ring bells in commemoration of the dead into the early morning. Friends and relatives would help with this task, and everyone would eat these foods for sustenance.

The festival is represented by the figure of a *castanyera*: an old lady, dressed in peasant's clothing and wearing a headscarf, sat behind a table, roasting chestnuts for street sale.

#### IN ITALY

##### St Francis Patron Saint of Italy

St Francis was proclaimed Patron Saint of Italy in 1939 by Pope Pius XII. In Assisi where the Saint was born in 1182, the religious celebrations take place in the Basilicas of Saint Mary of the Angels and St Francis on 3rd and 4th October.

On 4th October one of the 20 regions of Italy brings the oil which will burn all year in front of St Francis's tomb. This moment is very significant to the people because the lamp becomes a source of light which leads the believers symbolically in their journey of faith and love.





#### IN WALES

##### Guy Fawkes Night

Guy Fawkes Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Day, Bonfire Night and Firework Night, is an annual commemoration observed on 5th November, primarily in England. Its history begins with the events of 5 November 1605, when Guy Fawkes, a member of the Gunpowder Plot, was arrested while guarding explosives the plotters had placed beneath the House of Lords. Celebrating the fact that King James I had survived the attempt on his life, people lit bonfires around London, and months later the introduction of the Observance of 5th November Act enforced an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure.

Food—Toffee apples, hot dogs, soup.

#### IN POLAND

##### Saint Andrew's Day

Some people in Poland believe that the night before St. Andrew's Day is specially suitable for magic and divination. Many related customs exist: for example, the pouring of hot lead into water.



#### IN GREECE

##### Saint Andrew's Day

Saint Andreas Day, the patron Saint of Patra. There is a religious procession after the morning service.



#### IN PORTUGAL

##### S. Martinho

St Martin's legend. It is the story of a noble knight who was crossing a deserted area in the middle of a cold rainy day, met a beggar who had no clothes on; Martin then cut his vest in 2 parts and shared it with the beggar. After this kind act, the sun came out and the rain stopped so until today, it is said that because of that we have the "St Martin's Summer" (usually we have good weather in the days around St Martin's).

"Magusto" – doing a fire out in the open, roasting chestnuts and then jumping over the fire. Adults taste the new wine.

## November 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 POLAND U. KINGDOM ITALY SPAIN All Saints' Day PORTUGAL Bolinho Day	2 POLAND ITALY All Souls Day	3
4	5 U. KINGDOM WALES Guy Fawkes Night	6	7	8	9	10 FINLAND Father's Day U. KINGDOM Remembrance Sunday (Poppy day)
11 POLAND National Independence Day U. KINGDOM Remembrance Day PORTUGAL S. Martinho	12	13	14	15	16	17 GREECE School holiday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 POLAND Saint Catherine's Night
25	26	27	28	29	30 POLAND GREECE Saint Andrew's Day	

#### IN PORTUGAL

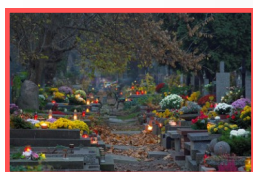
##### Bolinho Day

Cooking the traditional "small cake" ("bolinho") recipe. Children go door to door asking people to offer them food gifts.

#### IN GREECE

##### School holiday

In 1973 University students rebelled against the dictatorship and urged people to do the same. They stayed in the University grounds but tanks entered the place with violence and killed some of them. A year later democracy came back.



#### IN POLAND

##### All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is a festival which has been celebrated in Poland. All Saints Day is a national holiday, and a day when people all over Poland visit the graves of loved ones and to place candles and flowers on graves. The special candles, which can burn for many hours, are placed there so that departed souls can find their way through the darkness. Cemeteries are lit by many hundreds of these candles and at night the cemeteries can often be seen glowing from long distances. Many Poles travel long distances to visit family graves and to remember the dead. The holiday is also sometimes known as the Day of the Dead.







**IN SPAIN** - Christmas is celebrated in different ways. In most of the regions children hang socks which have to be filled with presents from Papa Noel. The tradition is the same as that of Santa Claus which takes place in many countries in the world. However, in our region, this tradition cohabits with a very ancient and totally different one: the Cagatió. Some years ago, children took a log from the forest and decorated it with a face, a hat and so on. After, they fed him for some weeks before Christmas so it would grow fat. Then the 25<sup>th</sup> of December people would hit the back of the Tió with sticks and sing a song at the same time so that it would give presents for everyone. During the feeding period the log is covered with a blanket so that he is not cold. Tradition also gave a piece of black coal for those who had not been good at home and at school.

Nowadays children do not take any log from the forest but they can buy it around. Typical fairs take place in many villages and in them you can easily find the Tió and many other things, all of them related to Christmas. The piece of black coal has been substituted by a piece of black sugar which is still called "coal" for those who are not always nicely behaving.



During all Christmas time, it is very common that people all around Spain eat *turrónes* and *neules*. The former have all kind of flavors and they are presented in the form of a flat bar which you cut into pieces for the people to eat. The base is made of almond and then it is mixed with different ingredients (egg, caramel, chocolate...) to get the final taste. *Neules* are made with a very thin layer of



flour and sugar which is then rolled and cooked in the oven. They may be compared to some cookies although in our country they are only eaten during Christmas. This tradition goes back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

**IN POLAND**  
Saint Nicholas' Day



**Christmas Eves' Dinner**



## December 2013



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thi	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4 <b>POLAND</b> Saint Barbara's Day	5	6 <b>FINLAND</b> Independence Day <b>POLAND</b> <b>ITALY</b> <b>GERMANY</b> Saint Nicholas' Day	7	8 
9	10 	11	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18	19 	20	21	22
23	24 <b>WALES</b> <b>U. KINGDOM</b> <b>IRELAND</b> <b>FINLAND - GREECE</b> <b>ITALY - PORTUGAL</b> <b>POLAND - SPAIN</b> <b>GERMANY</b> Christmas Eve	25 <b>WALES</b> <b>U. KINGDOM</b> <b>IRELAND</b> <b>FINLAND - GREECE</b> <b>ITALY - PORTUGAL</b> <b>POLAND - SPAIN</b> <b>GERMANY</b> Christmas Day	26 <b>IRELAND</b> St. Stephen's Day <b>U. KINGDOM</b> Boxing Day	27 	28	29
30	31 <b>WALES - IRELAND</b> <b>U. KINGDOM</b> <b>FINLAND - GREECE</b> <b>ITALY - PORTUGAL</b> <b>POLAND - SPAIN</b> <b>GERMANY</b> St Sylvester's Day					

### IN ITALY

One of the most popular Christmas traditions is the Crib.



### IRELAND

#### St. Stephen's Day

In Irish, it is called Lá Fhéile Stiofán or Lá an Dreoilín, meaning the Day of the Wren or Wren's Day. Although not as commonly practised as previously, in certain parts of Ireland people get dressed up and travel from house to house playing music, singing and dancing. They collect money for charities.



New Year's Eve is a great time for celebration. Families and friends come together to have parties and ring.

In the New Year some towns have firework displays.

They wait until nearly midnight and count down the time until the clock strikes midnight and the New Year has begun.

They sing Aul Lang Syne and shake hands and kiss the people next to them.

New Years Day is spent relaxing with the