



Celebrating
Christmas in the
UK

In the UK ,families often celebrate Christmas together, so they can watch each other open their presents!





Most families have a Christmas tree in their house for Christmas. The decorating of the tree is usually a family occasion, with everyone helping.



Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with Christmas lights over Christmas.

Often a famous person switches

them on.





The most famous Christmas lights in the UK are in Oxford street in London.

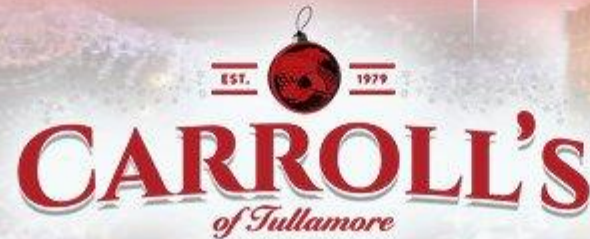


TULLAMORE

– CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2020 –

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER AT 5PM

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The Big Switch On

LIVE
STREAM
FROM YOUR OWN
HOME

Every year they get bigger and better. Thousands of people go to watch the big 'switch on' around the beginning of November.



Christmas tree ornaments



Tinsel



Bauble



Fairy

Set sth \leftrightarrow up (PHRV): to build sth or to put sth somewhere.

Robin



Pine cone





Elf

Pl. Elves



Candy cane



Wreath



Comet Star



- Like a lot of countries, Nativity Plays and Carol Services are also very popular at Christmas time.
- At this time, the church is only lit up by candles. It is a very special service and always makes people feel very Christmassy!



Nativity Plays

Carol Services





The Nativity Play recreates the scene of Jesus' Birth

The first Nativity Play was performed in a cave by Monks in Italy!

St. Francis of Assisi and his followers acted in the first play in 1223.

A close-up photograph of a religious figurine depicting the infant Jesus lying in a manger. The baby is the central focus, lying on a bed of straw within a wooden manger. The baby has a fair complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair, and is wearing a simple white cloth. The baby's arms are outstretched. In the background, other figurines are visible, including a woman on the left and another woman on the right, both looking towards the baby. The scene is set in a rustic, wooden environment, likely a stable or barn. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "Crib" in a black, sans-serif font.

Crib



The world's largest nativity crib scene

162 people

80 animals

Angels

450 other smaller objects



Children believe that Father Christmas or Santa Claus leaves presents in stockings or pillow-cases.

Pillow-cases



Stockings





These are normally hung up by the fire or by the children's beds on Christmas Eve.

- Children sometimes leave out mince pies and brandy for Father Christmas to eat and drink when he visits them.
- Now, it's often a non-alcoholic drink that's left because Santa has to drive his sleigh.





A non-alcoholic
drink

Rudolph



Santa has to
drive his
sleigh

Reindeer

Children write letters to Father Christmas/Santa listing their requests, but sometimes instead of putting them in the post, the letters are tossed into the fireplace.





Toss (V): throw (something) somewhere lightly

The draught carries the letters up the chimney and Father Christmas/Santa reads the smoke.



Draught (noun): a current of cool air



- In the UK, the main Christmas Meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or early afternoon on Christmas Day.
- It's normally roast turkey, roast vegetables and 'all the trimmings' . It's often served with cranberry sauce and bread sauce.
- Traditionally, and before turkey was available, roast beef or goose was the main Christmas meal.

Cranberry sauce

Bread sauce



Roast turkey

Roast vegetables

All the trimmings

Trimming (noun): the traditional accompaniments to something, especially a meal

Before turkey was available



Roast beef



Roast goose



Brussels sprouts

Dessert is often Christmas Pudding. Mince pies and lots of chocolates are often eaten as well! Trifle is also a popular dessert at Christmas.



Christmas Pudding



Mince pies



Trifle

The dinner table is decorated with a Christmas Cracker for each person and sometimes flowers and candles.

The UK is also famous for Christmas Cake - some people love it and some people really don't like it!

It's traditionally a rich fruit cake covered with marzipan and icing - and often top with Christmas themed cake decorations like a spring of holly.



Christmas Cracker



Christmas Cake



a sprig of holly

Christmas Cake

A rich fruit cake

covered with marzipan and icing

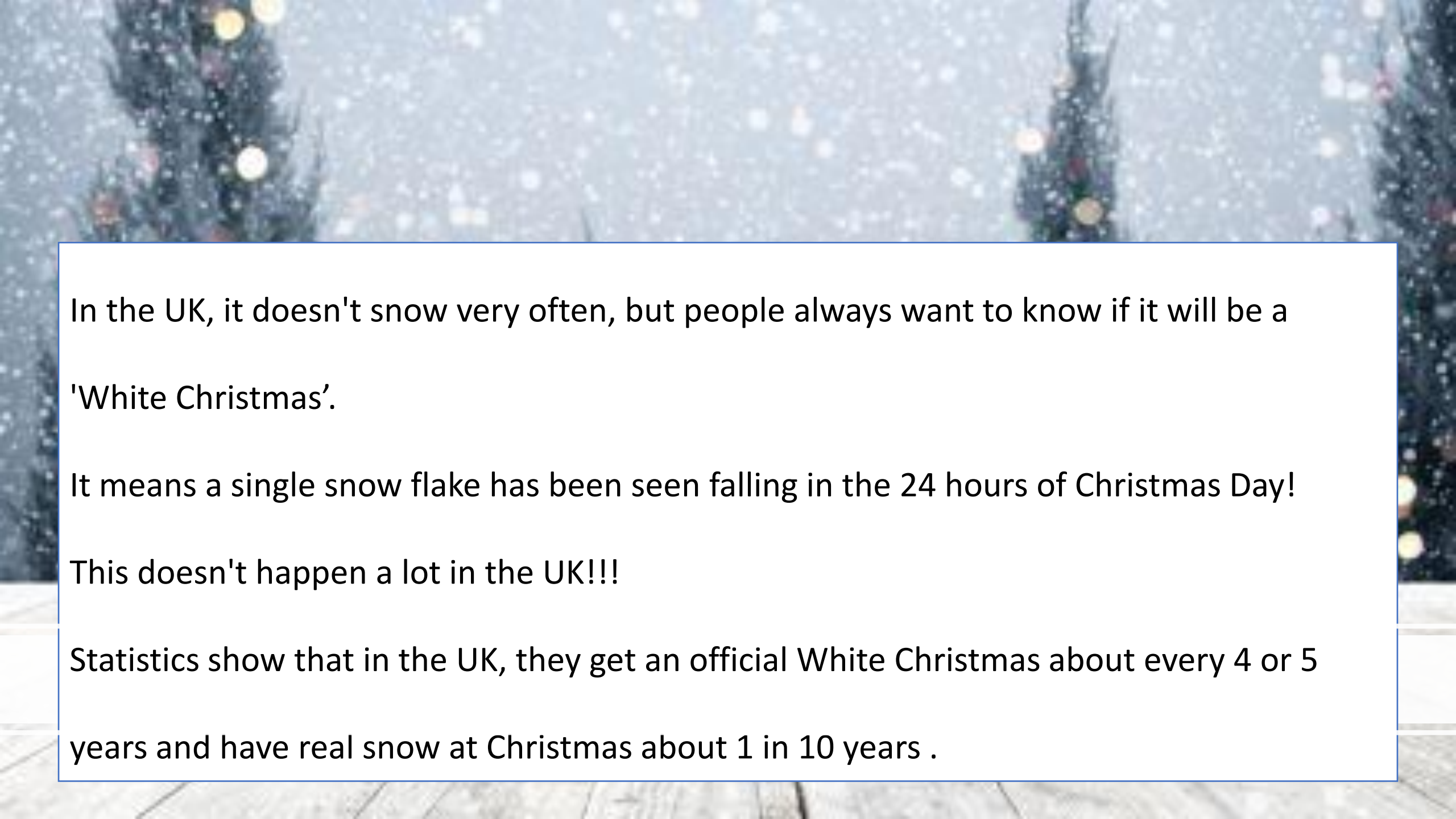


- Marzipan (noun): a sweet yellow or white paste of ground almonds, sugar, and egg whites, used to coat cakes or to make confectionery.





Icing (noun): a sweet mixture of sugar and water, milk, butter or egg white that is used to cover and decorate cakes.



In the UK, it doesn't snow very often, but people always want to know if it will be a 'White Christmas'.

It means a single snow flake has been seen falling in the 24 hours of Christmas Day!

This doesn't happen a lot in the UK!!!

Statistics show that in the UK, they get an official White Christmas about every 4 or 5 years and have real snow at Christmas about 1 in 10 years .

White Christmas



A single snow flake has been seen falling in the 24 hours of Christmas Day!



- All across the UK, in cities and towns, there are fireworks to celebrate the New Year.
- One of the most famous fireworks displays is in London, along the River Thames.



In Scotland, the first person to set foot in a house in New Year is thought to have a big effect on the fortunes of the people that live there!
This is known as 'first-footing'.

In parts of northern
England it is sometimes
said that a stranger coming
through the door carrying
a lump of coal will bring
good luck.



Cleaning the house for to welcome the new year is an old Hogmanay tradition.

