

Did you know?

May Day is a very old festival in honour of the beginning of summer.

In the Middle Ages May Day was an important day: in the very early morning, young girls went to the fields and washed their faces with dew. They believed this made them look beautiful for a year.

In Britain there are several curious customs.

In Oxford the organist of Magdalen College climbs to the top of the college tower and sings a hymn.

In Cornwall there's the Hobby-horse festival: a man dresses up as a horse; he walks along the streets with a band of musicians and singers.

Curiosity corner

In the 16th century maypoles and the election of a May King and Queen became regular.

Nowadays maypole dancing goes on at village fairs all over the country. Many schools also teach country dancing as part of the curriculum.

