

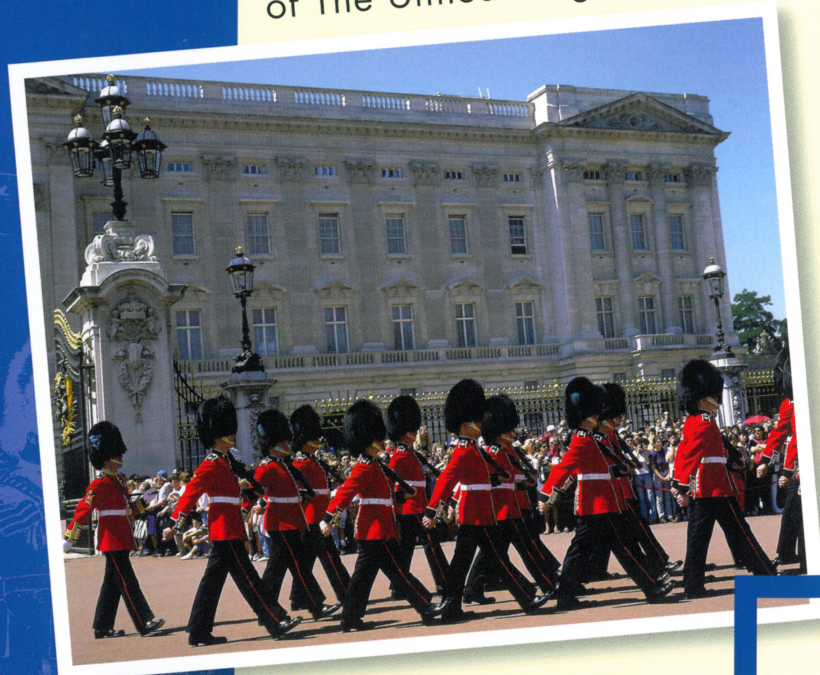


You Can Bank on Britain!

《イギリスの祝祭日はお墨付き!》

by
Mark Conrad Weisner

The History and Fascinating Stories
Behind The Bank Holidays
and National Days
of The United Kingdom



EIHŌSHA

Annotated by
Akira Nagaoka
and
Tetsuo Shibagaki

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はじめに

このテキストの最大の特徴は、語彙的にも、文法的にも一定レベルの良質の英語で日本人大学生向けにわかりやすく読みやすく書かれていることである。また、内容的にも事実だけでなく筆者の見解もバランスよく盛り込まれているので、エッセイとしても興味深く読めるであろう。読みやすいということも、面白く読めるということも、次にはどんなことが書かれているのかと能動的に興味を持って読めるということであり、講読学習には最も大切な要素である。

イギリスおよびアイルランドは、キリスト教国であり、その文化はキリスト教の影響を強く受けている。本書の主題である祝祭日についてもキリスト教との関係が深い。従って祝祭日に関するエピソード、歴史的・文化的背景、行事、お祭り等も宗教とのつながりのあることが多い。これは日本人にとっては、異文化体験の一つの良い例となるであろう。

また一口にイギリスと言っても、地域別には、スポーツの代表などにも見られるようにイングランド、スコットランド、ウェールズ、北アイルランドに分かれ、それぞれにあらゆる面で独自性を保っている。それは各地域の祝祭日にも反映されている。さらに祝祭日の記念の催し物、パレードなどもそれぞれの地域のユニークな行事や様々なエピソードが語られているので面白いであろう。

設問については正誤問題、選択問題によって各ユニットの内容確認ができ、語彙については各ユニットの重要単語を選択問題で確認できるようになっている。また文法については作文問題で確認できるように配慮されており、それぞれの学習項目がバランスよく配置されている。また各ユニットの祝祭日に関する簡単な会話がついており、さらに各ユニットの冒頭と設問の最後には、そのユニットの主題に関係のあるトピックについての日本に関する質問なども用意されているので簡単な作文や発表の題材として利用できるであろう。

イギリスの祝祭日についての様々な歴史的背景、催し物、慣習について読みながら、イギリスの文化と歴史の一端に触れて、英語に親しむと共にそれぞれの話題を楽しみながら本書をお使い頂ければ幸いである。

最後に本書の出版にご尽力頂いた英宝社編集長宇治正夫様、及び、関係者の皆様に心より感謝申し上げます。

2011年9月

長岡 明

There are a number of various Bank Holidays, Public Holidays and National Days in the UK. This book will explain their history and describe some of the interesting and unusual customs and traditions associated with them.

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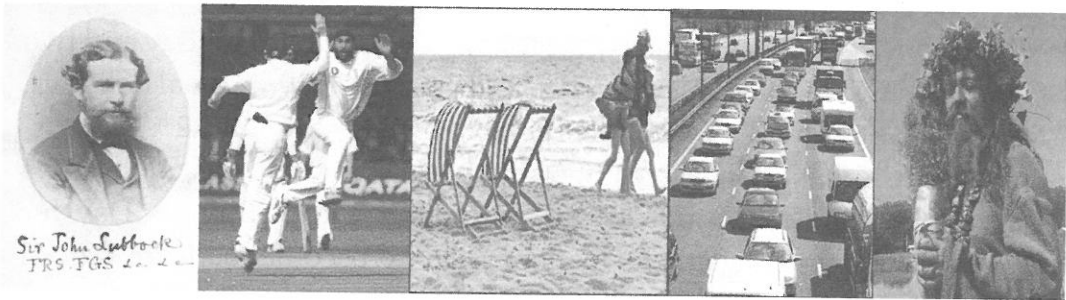
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Unit 1.

Today's Topic. Think about and answer these questions.

Q: How many public holidays are there in your country?

What are the names and meanings of the holidays? List as many as you can.



It's Official-No Work Today!

The history and meaning of British Bank Holidays and National Days

If there is one thing the British enjoy it is a holiday or day off from work and so a Bank or Public Holiday is always welcome! 5

In 1871, Sir John Lubbock, the first president of the Institute of Bankers, introduced the Bank Holidays⁽¹⁾ Act. Four holidays were made legal in England, Wales and Ireland and five in Scotland. Sir John was a cricket lover and believed⁽²⁾ that bank workers should have the chance to play and watch cricket matches whenever they were scheduled so those Bank 10 Holidays were days when cricket matches were played.

One hundred⁽³⁾ years later, the Bank and Financial Dealings Act 1971 was passed. It listed the official Bank and Public Holidays of the UK and is still in use today.

The holidays were called 'Bank Holidays' because traditionally banks 15 closed on these official holidays forcing other businesses to close too. Now with cash cards and Internet banking, life is so much easier and businesses can continue to function even if the banks are closed.

Many shops remain open but curiously, many museums, historical homes and sports centres may be closed. This sadly spoils the chance of 20 family outings to places of interest being held and the chance for people

to exercise on a day off from work.

Most people who are not employed by the 'essential services' e.g. police, fire, health etc can have a day off from work.

England and Wales have six Bank Holidays and two 'Common-law Holidays', Christmas Day and Good Friday. 'Common-law Holidays' are holidays that have become accepted as formal holidays over a period of time.

Scotland has nine Bank Holidays. They have two special holidays just for themselves, January 2nd and St Andrew's Day exclusively.

Northern Ireland has seven Bank Holidays, one Public Holiday and two Common-law Holidays. Northern Ireland was given two special holidays, March 17th, St Patrick's Day and Orangemen's Day, on July 12th.

There are four National Days; St Andrew's Day for Scotland, St George's Day for England, St Patrick's Day for Ireland and St David's Day for Wales. Each country wants its National Day to become made an official Bank Holiday as Britain has fewer Public or Bank Holidays than most other countries. Cyprus, for example, has 14 official holidays compared to the maximum of 10 official holidays in Northern Ireland.

It might be surprising to know that St Andrew was not a Scotsman but an Israeli, St George was from Turkey not England and St Patrick was an Englishman rather than an Irishman! Only St David was born in the same country as his patronage, Wales.

What kinds of Public Holidays do you have in your country? Do you have a National Day?

Notes

1. **Bank Holiday** イギリスでは、土曜、日曜以外の法定休業日。元々は銀行のみに実施されたのでこの名で呼ばれる。
2. **cricket** 16世紀にイギリスで発祥した球技スポーツ。野球の元とも言われる。現在ではイギリス、インド、オーストラリア等で盛ん。
3. **list** 「記載する」
4. **essential service** 日常生活に必要不可欠で、年中無休の職種のこと。
5. **e.g.** ラテン語 *exempli gratia* を略したもの。例えば (for example と読む) の意味。
6. **Common Law** 成文化されている法律ではなく、判例、慣習を基礎とする不文法のこと。
7. **Good Friday** 「聖金曜日」キリストの十字架の受難日。
8. **St Andrew's Day** スコットランドの守護聖人、聖アンドリューを祝う日。
9. **St Patrick's Day** アイルランドにキリスト教を広めた聖パトリックの命日。
10. **Orangemen's Day** 1690年、アイルランドのボイン川でプロテスタントのオレンジ公ウィリアム三世がカトリックのジェームス二世に勝利した日。
11. **St George's Day** イングランドの守護聖人、聖ジョージの命日。
12. **St David's Day** ウェールズの守護聖人、聖デイビッドを祝う日。

A) Comprehension I: True or False

Circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.

1. T/F The Bank Holiday Act was originally started so bankworkers could enjoy cricket.()
2. T/F Bank holidays are the same in each country in Britain.()
3. T/F It is easy to visit museums and keep fit on Bank Holidays.()
4. T/F Britain has the most public holidays in all of Europe.()
5. T/F British people are happy with the number of official holidays they get. ()

B) Comprehension II: Multiple Choice Completion

Complete these sentences with correct choices.

1. Sir John Lubbock was important because
 - a) he was a famous cricketer.
 - b) he started the Bank Holiday Act.
 - c) he introduced banks to Britain.
2. March 17th is more commonly known as
 - a) St Patrick's Day.
 - b) St Lubbock's Day.
 - c) St Andrew's Day.
3. Countries that do not have a holiday on their National Days are
 - a) England and Scotland.
 - b) England and Wales.
 - c) Wales and Ireland.
4. The country in the UK with the most holidays is
 - a) England.
 - b) Scotland.
 - c) Northern Ireland

C) Words and Expressions

Fill in the blanks in these sentences with words or expressions from the list below.

1. The Dandy Gentlemen's Club offered membership _____ to males.
2. Although born in Turkey, St George gives England his _____.
3. Water is _____ for human life.
4. The robot had fallen off the cliff and could no longer _____.

essential, function, exclusively, patronage,

D) Composition

Fill in the blanks in each sentence below with the words above it.

1. allow/ passed/ women/ was/21

The law to () () over () to vote () () in 1928.

2. Monster/ curiously/ caught/ seen/ has/ The

() Loch Ness () has been () but () () never been ().

3. Cyprus/ fewer/ holidays/ Ireland

Northern () has () official () than ().

E) Listening Comprehension



Listen to the short conversation. Then choose the correct answers to the questions.

1. Why does the man wish Sir John Lubbock were still alive?
 - a) He wants less Bank Holidays.
 - b) He wants more Bank Holidays.
 - c) He wants to move to Cyprus.
2. Which country has the fewest Bank Holidays?
 - a) Britain
 - b) Cyprus
 - c) Northern Ireland
3. Which country would they both prefer to live in?
 - a) Northern Ireland
 - b) Cyprus
 - c) Britain

F) Talking It Over:

Discuss these questions with a partner or in a small group.

1. Which is your favourite bank/public holiday in your home country? Explain.
2. What do you and people like to do on that day? Give details.
3. Which bank/public holiday in the UK interests you most? Explain.

Unit 2.

Today's Topic. Think about and answer these questions.

Q: What do you do on January 1st?

Are there any traditions or customs on this day in your country?



Seeing In The New Year

Hogmanay New Year's Day, January 1st January 2nd Bank Holidays

In most of Britain, December 31st or New Year's Eve is a time for celebration while the first Bank Holiday of the year, January 1st is a time for staying home and recovering from a hangover after too much eating and drinking.

However, in Scotland, December 31st is known as Hogmanay and is a time for fireworks, parties and heavy drinking and saying 'goodbye' to the old year. It was originally a religious feast for worshipping the sun and fire.

No one knows the real translation of the word, Hogmanay, one theory is "Hug-me-naay" meaning 'hug or kiss me now' as even strangers held and kissed each other at this time of year. People take to the streets and Glasgow⁽¹⁾ and Edinburgh⁽²⁾ hold street parties for over 100,000 people. Hogmanay is more important than Christmas in Scotland and at the chimes of midnight everyone holds hands and tries to remember the words to 'Auld Lang Syne'⁽³⁾, a song by Robert Burns⁽⁴⁾. The words basically mean 'the good old days' and in Japan the song's tune is more familiar to people forced into leaving department stores when they are closing for the night.

Only Scotland gets January 2nd as an extra Bank Holiday, so their

festivities continue longer than other parts of Britain. It became a Bank Holiday in 1973. People like to visit their friends after midnight and it is believed that the first person to enter a family's house on New Year's Day brings good luck for the rest of the year. This is called 'first footing' and a tall, dark and handsome man is invited to enter through the front door, bring a piece of coal to symbolise warming the house, shortbread to feed the household and a bottle of whisky to toast the owner or main member of the house. It is preferred that the 'first footer' is dark haired as traditionally blond strangers were Vikings⁽⁶⁾ who attacked the villagers! The celebrations often continue into the early hours and usually until the 3rd of January!

It is also the time for the New Year Resolution; this is a promise to make a huge lifestyle change in the following year. People make a commitment to improve themselves and the usual topics are to stop smoking, reduce their drinking of alcohol and the most popular is to lose weight. To be honest, most people give up their resolution soon after they make it!

The New Year's Day Parade was started in 1987; it is the biggest street event of its kind and raises money for London-based charities. More than 10,000 performers and half a million spectators join together on the 2-mile⁽⁷⁾ route. People who have shown bravery in the last year are celebrated and honoured in the parade.

How do you usually spend January 1st and 2nd?

Notes

1. **Glasgow** 「グラスゴー」スコットランド最大の都市、人口約 58 万。
2. **Edinburg** 「エジンバラ」スコットランドの首都、人口約 46 万。
3. **Auld Lang Syne** 「オールド・ラング・サイン」日本では「蛍の光」として有名。
4. **Robert Burns** (1759-1796) スコットランドの国民的詩人。スコットランドの民謡の収集、整理に努めた。
5. **shortbread** 「バタークッキー」
6. **Viking** 8世紀より西ヨーロッパを荒らし回ったスカンジナビアに住んでいた海賊。
7. **mile** 「マイル」距離の単位、陸では、1 mile 約 1.6 キロメートル。

A) Comprehension I: True or False

Circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.

1. T/F In Scotland, Christmas is not as important as Hogmanay.()
2. T/F Dark hair is generally more popular than blond hair in Scotland in January.()
3. T/F Many people promise to start to diet on January 1st.()
4. T/F Everyone is successful with their New Year Resolution.()
5. T/F The New Year's Parade raises money for charities worldwide.()

B) Comprehension II: Multiple Choice Completion

Complete these sentences with correct choices.

1. Hogmanay is a time to
 - a) stay home and relax.
 - b) worship the sun and fire.
 - c) celebrate and visit friends.
2. 'Auld Lang Syne' is the name of a
 - a) Scottish festival.
 - b) Scottish song.
 - c) Scottish department store.
3. January 2nd is a public holiday for
 - a) Scotland only.
 - b) Wales and England.
 - c) all of Britain.
4. 'First footers' must bring to the household
 - a) feet and fireworks.
 - b) a blond haired man.
 - c) food, drink and warmth.

C) Words and Expressions

Fill in the blanks in these sentences with words or expressions from the list below.

1. Some people do not eat pork for _____ reasons.
2. He had a terrible _____ the morning after his birthday party.
3. In many countries, red is used to _____ danger.
4. The writer made a _____ to finish the book by September.

commitment, symbolise, hangover, religious

D) Composition

Fill in the blanks in each sentence below with the words above it.

1. Mosque/ Thousands/ worshipping/Muslims/ be / Regent's

() of () can () seen () at the
() Park ().

2. two/ lifestyle/heart/ to/ huge

After () () attacks, Tony decided ()
make a () () change.

3. pop/ familiar/ than/ more/ most/ Beatles

The () are () () to people ()
() other () groups.

E) Listening Comprehension



Listen to the short conversation. Then choose the correct answers to the questions.

1. What is George's nationality?
 - a) Scottish
 - b) English
 - c) Irish
2. Where does Moira come from?
 - a) Ireland
 - b) England
 - c) Scotland
3. What is George's New Year's Resolution?
 - a) to drink too much
 - b) to drink less
 - c) to work at a bank

F) Talking It Over

Discuss these questions with a partner or in a small group.

1. Are there any similarities between customs in Britain and your country on these days? Give details.
2. Which activity would you like to try? Explain.
3. Are there any life style changes that you need to make? Give details.

Unit 3.

Today's Topic.

Think about and answer these questions.

Q: What do you know about Wales?

Do you know any famous people or things from Wales?



Happy St David's Day

March 1st National Day of Wales

Most British Bank Holidays or National Days, celebrate the anniversary of certain saints' deaths and remember the important events in their lives. 5

Saint David, the patron saint⁽¹⁾ of Wales, was famous as a teacher and preacher and started many churches and monasteries. A very strict religious man, David taught his monks to drink only water, to eat just bread and to pull the plough⁽²⁾ without the help of animals! His nickname was 'Dewi Ddyfrwr', *David the water drinker*! His symbol was the green 10
onion or leek and this became an emblem of Wales. It is said that he ordered Welsh soldiers to wear leeks on their helmets so they could be found easily during battle. He died on March 1st around the year 589 and this day was made a National Day of remembrance and celebration in Wales in the 18th century. 15

Once a year, societies all over Wales hold special events and Welsh, one of the oldest living European languages, can even be heard all over the country. At London's Paddington Station⁽³⁾, announcers read out train information in Welsh⁽⁴⁾ as well as English on St David's Day⁽⁵⁾. The Welsh language is treasured and the Welsh refuse to let it die out, even though 20
70% of Welsh people cannot understand a word of it!

Although classes are suspended, students go to school dressed in traditional Welsh costume e.g. Girls wear a flannel petticoat⁽⁷⁾ and tall beaver fur hat that looks like a chimney. Boys wear a frilly white shirt and black trousers. Sadly, you aren't likely to see beavers in Wales anymore
5 as the fur trade killed them all!

It is the custom to wear one or both of the national emblems of Wales on a lapel, the leek and a yellow flower called the daffodil. Can you imagine walking around with a *negi* on your jacket!

Leek soup is eaten, hymns and patriotic songs are sung by male voice
10 choirs and the celebration of Welsh culture takes place.

Eisteddfod⁽⁸⁾, means 'festival of competitions' in English and it includes story telling, song and dance. Of course, everything must be done in the Welsh language. Even dancing if possible!

The men of Wales are very fond of beer but St David would never
15 have approved and the vegetarian leader would also have banned the traditional meal of roast lamb.

The Welsh have been campaigning for years, for March 1st, St David's Day, to be made an official Bank Holiday. They complain that so many Bank Holidays in Britain celebrate Jesus Christ, a person who may not
20 have actually existed at all! So they feel at least one day of the year should be dedicated to a man who is so meaningful to the cultural heritage of Wales.

Notes

1. **patron saint** 「守護聖人」
2. **pull the plough** 「鋤を引く」
3. **Paddington Station** 「パディントン駅」 ロンドンにあり、主にイングランド西部とウェールズ南部を結ぶ列車の発着駅。
4. **Welsh language** 「ウェールズ語」 ウェールズでは、現在、英語と並んで公用語とされている。
5. **treasure** 「大事に取っておく、大事にする」
6. **die out** 「すたれる、消える」
7. **petticoat** 女性用ロングスカートドレスの一種。
8. **story telling** 物語を語り聞かせること。