

HOGMANAY Trivia

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- No one really knows where the word 'Hogmanay' comes from. There is speculation that the word could be from Gaelic or Norman-French. However, what is known is that in Scotland, it means to have a good time with friends, ceilidh dancing and laughing together.
- The famous Scottish poet Robert Burns' 'Auld Lang Syne' is sung to celebrate the New Year, around the world and not just in Scotland.
- the saying 'The Bells' is used to describe the Midnight hour when New Year's Eve becomes New Year's day. It stems from the noise the church bells make as the clock strikes midnight signaling the beginning of a new day and a new year.
- It is an important Hogmanay Tradition to welcome strangers and friends with good hospitality.
- A traditional gift of Hogmanay is to give the host a lump coal to put near their fire place
- It is a tradition to clean the whole house so that the New Year starts off with the house at its best.

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- Traditionally Hogmanay was celebrated on December 25th, but moved to December 31st after the Reformation.
- 'First Footing' – the 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-haired male. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times.

- Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations were the site of the World Record for the largest ceilidh dance. 1914 people danced Strip the Willow at the 'Night Afore Fiesta 'on 30 December 2000.
- Some men dress as Vikings to take part in a torchlight procession in Edinburgh as part of Hogmanay celebrations
- The traditional Hogmanay ceremony of yesteryear would involve people dressing up in the hides of cattle and running around the village being hit by sticks.

Instagram

- One Hogmanay tradition is to place a silver three-penny or sixpence on the doorstep. If it was still there the next morning it would be a lucky year.
- On the stroke of midnight all ships in port would sound their horns.
- For bonfires on Hogmanay in Scotland the material would be collected in November, and carried up Shilling Hill, then later to Bignold Park for the Public gathering.
- Stonehaven hosts one of Scotland's most spectacular New Year displays: for nearly a century, residents have been swinging fireballs over their heads, a practice descended from pagan cleansing rituals.
- Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year.