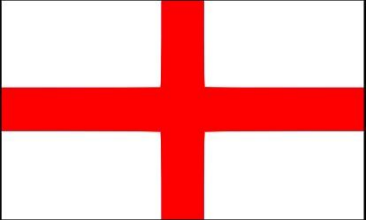


St George's Day

April 23rd 2017





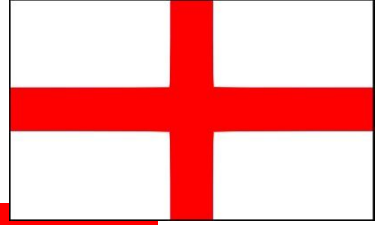
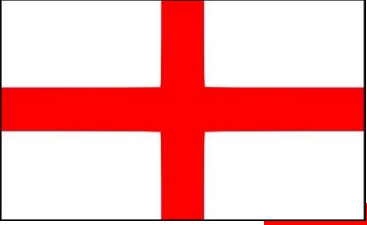
St. George's Day takes place on April 23rd, recognising the patron saint of England apparently made famous for slaying a dragon and saving a distressed maiden.



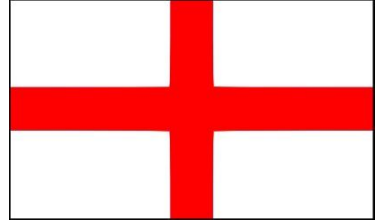
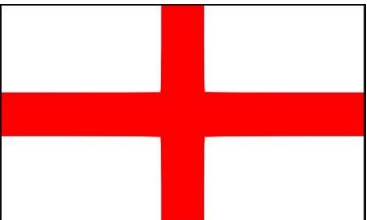
It's the one day of the year, apart from major football tournaments, when you are guaranteed to see English flags being waved proudly across the country.

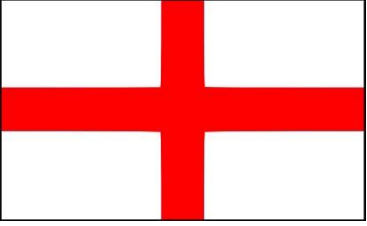
April 23 is a national day of celebration about all things English.





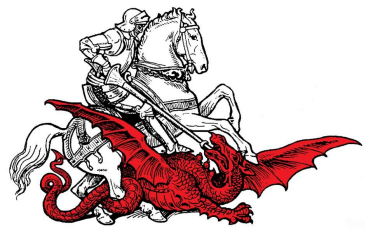
10 interesting facts
about
St George's Day

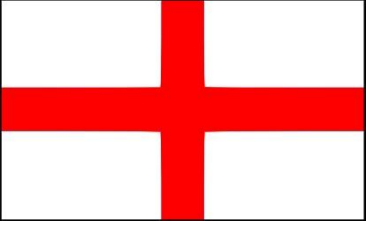




FACT 1

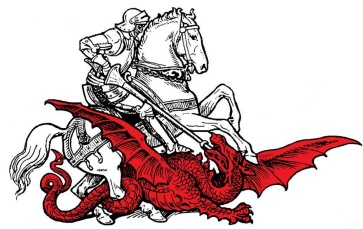
St George's Day takes place on 23 April every year, which is traditionally accepted as being the date of St George's death in 303 AD.

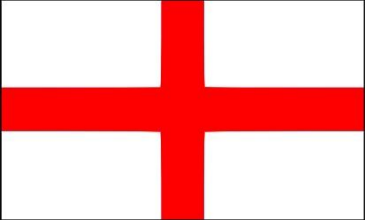




Despite the fact that St. George has been the patron saint of England since the 14th century, only one in five people know that St. George's Day falls on 23 April.

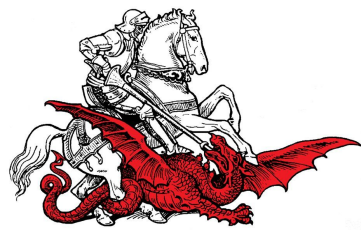
- *More than a quarter of people living in England do not even know who their patron saint is!*

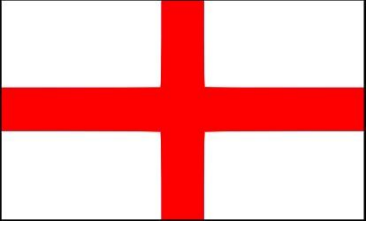




Saint George isn't English

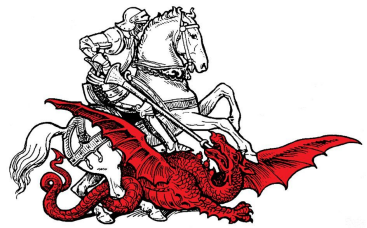
While St George's exact birthdate remains unclear but is likely to be 270 AD, we know that he was born in Cappadocia, part of modern day Turkey.

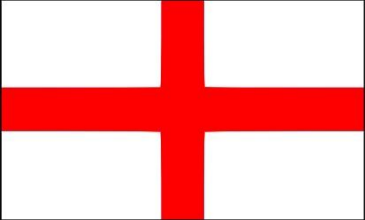




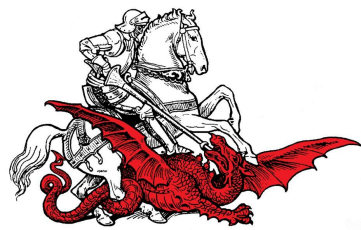
FACT 4

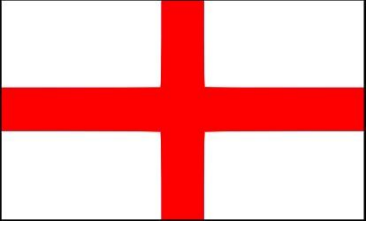
St George is the Patron Saint of Scouting and on the Sunday nearest to 23 April scouts and guides throughout England parade through the streets.





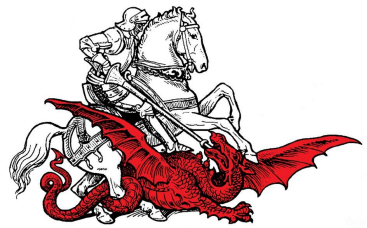
His emblem, a red cross on a white background was adopted by Richard The Lionheart and brought to England in the 12th century, when the king's soldiers would wear it on their tunics to avoid confusion in battle.

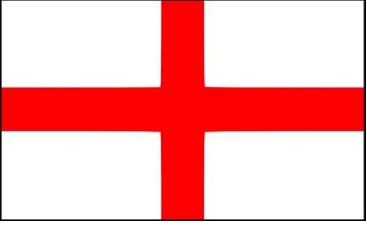




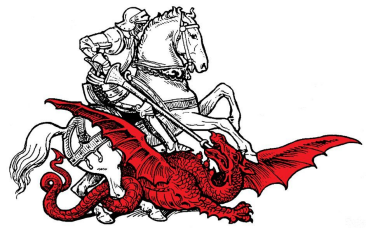
FACT 6

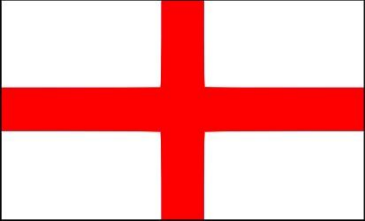
Aside from England, other countries that celebrate St George's Day include Canada, Croatia, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Georgia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Macedonia.



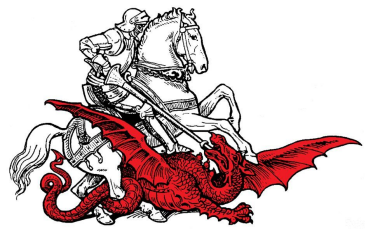


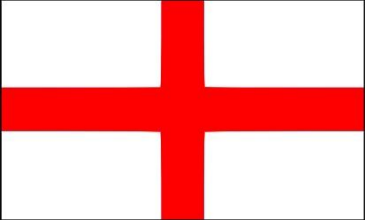
The date of 23 April was also the date of the death of the English playwright William Shakespeare. UNESCO marked this historic date by declaring it the International Day of the Book and it is also traditionally when Shakespeare's birthday is celebrated (Some people believed he died on his birthday!).



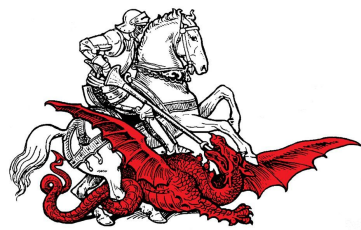


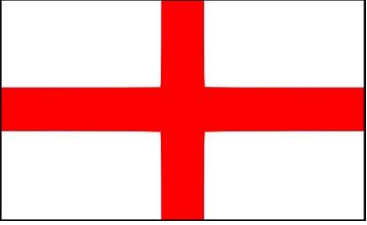
St George's Day was once celebrated as widely as Christmas. But the celebrations waned by the end of the 18th century after England had united with Scotland on May 1, 1707. In recent times, there has been a push, involving campaigns and petitions, to make the day a public holiday in England.



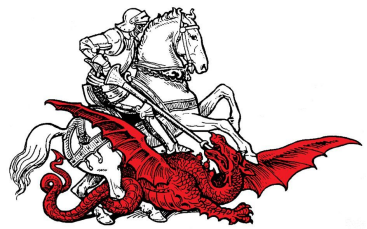


The Emperor's wife was so inspired by St George's bravery and loyalty to his religion, that she too became a Christian and was subsequently executed for her faith.





St George was beheaded for resigning his military post and protesting against his pagan leader, the Emperor Diocletian (245-313 AD), who led Rome's persecution of Christians.





Will you celebrate it?