

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

HOGMANAY

The New Year (1) _____ celebrated around the world and, in Scotland, (2) _____ is a long and rich heritage associated (3) _____ New Year: Hogmanay.

Traditionally, Hogmanay in Scotland (4) _____ a much bigger celebration (5) _____ Christmas. It may surprise many people to note that Christmas was not celebrated (6) _____ a festival and virtually prohibited in Scotland (7) _____ around 400 years. From the end of the 17th century and right until the 1960s, Christmas day was a normal working day (8) _____ Scotland. With Scots working over Christmas, (9) _____ Solstice holiday was transferred (10) _____ New Year.

It is unknown (11) _____ the word Hogmanay originally comes (12) _____, but it is believed that some of the Hogmanay traditions (13) _____ brought to Scotland (14) _____ Viking invaders who observed the Winter Solstice, (15) _____ the shortest day of the year, with drinking, singing and (16) _____ celebrations.

There (17) _____ several traditions and superstitions that should be (18) _____ care of before midnight on 31st December: It (19) _____ become tradition to clean your house on 31st December and clear (20) _____ your debts before the bells sound midnight. Immediately after midnight (21) _____ is traditional to sing poet Robert Burns' 'For Auld Lang Syne' and to welcome strangers to your home, wishing (22) _____ a 'Guid New Year'. Usually, this is used to symbolise a complete break with the old year (23) _____ begin the New Year on a happy note.

The 'first foot' is the first person to visit your house just (24) _____ midnight and the person who brings you good luck for the New Year. The 'first foot' should (25) _____ a tall, dark-haired man with a gift (26) _____ as coal or black bun. The superstition dates (27) _____ to Viking days, (28) _____ a blond man arriving (29) _____ your door meant trouble. Nowadays people tend to bring (30) _____ to eat or drink.

The modern Hogmanay celebrations include all-night street parties in the cities (31) _____ Edinburgh and Glasgow, with big crowds, live music, torchlight processions and fireworks. (32) _____ traditional fireworks display at Edinburgh castle dates back to the traditional pagan celebrations. Back (33) _____, people would dress in the hide of cattle and run (34) _____ the town hitting (35) _____ other with sticks.

(36) _____ you are planning a trip to Scotland, remember (37) _____ 2nd January is (38) _____ a national holiday. If you (39) _____ get a chance to welcome in the New Year in Scotland, make (40) _____ you take it!

Source: <http://csda.gencat.cat/>