

The Willows Whisper

Feb 2024

What Does Love Mean?

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8-year-olds:
"What does love mean?"

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think...

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So, my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

Rebecca - age 8

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK."

Danny - age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together, and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss."

Emily - age 8

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

Tommy - age 6

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

Elaine - age 5

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

Chris - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." (Now THIS is love!)

Lauren - age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you."

Karen - age 7

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet, and she doesn't think it's gross."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica, 8

How do people celebrate Valentine's Day in the UK?



Valentine's Day in the UK can be celebrated in a few different ways.

Some people celebrate with their partner, some with their friends and some don't celebrate at all!

Of course, the most common way that Valentine's Day in the UK is celebrated is by couples who want to do something romantic.

Restaurants are often fully booked for the occasion and special events such as romantic music recitals take place.

Some couples prefer to save money and stay in; the famous British supermarket Marks and Spencer sell a special meal deal to help celebrate the day on a budget. Many British people exchange cards and gifts with their loved ones.

However, for a lot of couples, Valentine's Day is just another day. They prefer to make

a big deal out of birthdays, or just do romantic things with their partner whenever they feel like it, rather than on one specific day.

What about single people?

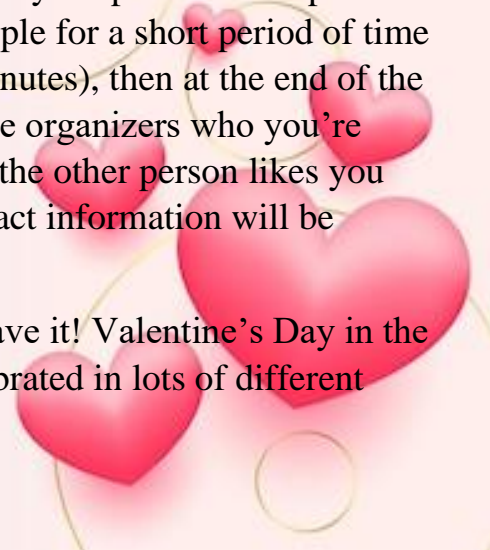
If you want to celebrate Valentine's Day in the UK but you don't have a significant other, there are still lots of fun things to do. Lots of clubs and bars hold Valentine's Day parties so people can have fun and possibly meet a new romantic interest.

Other venues hold anti-Valentine's Day parties, so you can party to songs about breaking up and being independent along with your friends.

If you want to enjoy Valentine's Day in the UK by meeting lots of other single people, you could go to a Valentine's Day speed dating event, which are held in most big cities.

If you're not sure what this is, speed dating is an event where you speak to multiple other single people for a short period of time (such as five minutes), then at the end of the night you tell the organizers who you're interested in. If the other person likes you back, your contact information will be exchanged.

So, there you have it! Valentine's Day in the UK can be celebrated in lots of different ways...





Pancake Day 2024

This year Pancake Day will be celebrated on Tuesday 13th February.

It changes every year as it is always forty-seven days before Easter Sunday.

At the Willows we have occasional pancakes for breakfast or tea.

Many consider themselves experts of the battered snack, but how well do you really know your pancakes?

The simplicity of the pancake means that it has been tried, tested, and tried again a hundred times over, with each effort forming something slightly different to the last.

Now, thousands of years after it first made its way into our diets, you can find multiple types of pancakes around the world.

From the well-known French crêpes and Scotch pancakes to more elaborate and complicated recipes.

Our residents have their pancakes with lemon and sugar, or whatever topping they like.

We call it simply a pancake bonanza and serve our pancakes with a smile!

French Crêpes



French crêpes are well known in the UK and are officially made in a crêpe pan to form a thin pancake. Made from flour, milk and eggs, these are closest counterparts to English pancakes, and can be served sweet or savory.

American Pancakes



The American pancake recipe uses a rising agent like baking powder to form much thicker, fluffier pancakes. These are best served with maple syrup and bacon for breakfast, or as a dessert with fruit, cream, or yoghurt.

Scotch Pancakes



Scotch pancakes (also known as drop scones) are made with flour, eggs, sugar, milk, salt and cream of tartar. They are made much smaller than a typical English pancake and are often served with jam or cream as a snack.

Indonesian Serabi



Made with rice flour and coconut milk and distinctively only cooked on one side, most Serabi are eaten sweet, but can be paired with cheese and meat for a savory snack.

Russian Blinis



Russian blinis, or buckwheat pancakes, are yeasted pancakes traditionally made from buckwheat flour and served savory with sour cream or caviar. Mini blinis have become popular in the UK and are often eaten with smoked salmon as an appetizer.

Moroccan Msemen



Moroccan Msemens are square-shaped variations made from wheat flour and semolina. They are traditionally served savory with meats and meals.

Danish Aebleskiver



Danish Aebleskiver are served hot, fluffy, and spherical! Made in a special frying pan with deep holes for each pancake, they are then consumed like doughnuts – dipped in jam and sprinkled in sugar.

Irish Boxty



Made with egg, flour, milk, butter, and potato, Irish Boxtys (or potato pancakes) are a kind of pancake-hash brown hybrid. This type of pancake is best served as a savory snack or as part of a delicious meal.

Korean Jeon



A savory takes on the pancake, the Jeon is made from eggs, wheat flour, rice and green onions. Differing from many pancakes that are then topped or used as a wrap, the Korean Jeon combines fish, meat, or vegetables with the mixture so that the ingredients are cooked within, making it a meal.

Italian Crespelle



The Italian take is a different type of pancake that is like that of the French crêpe. Made from eggs, milk, and chestnut flour, it forms a thin pancake best served savory with meat or cheese.

Australian Pikelet



Made from milk, flour, eggs and a touch of icing sugar, the Australian pikelet is a sort of blini-crumpet crossover. Pikelets are made small like a Scotch pancake and served with jam, cream, or butter.

Pancake recipe

Ingredients

100g plain flour

2 large eggs

300ml milk

1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying

lemon wedges and caster sugar to serve.

Method

STEP 1

Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter.

STEP 2

Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time or start cooking straight away.

STEP 3

Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.

STEP 4

When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.

STEP 5

Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favorite filling.

Back to Pink!



There is nothing too much or too difficult for our Willows hair salon with Beth in charge of it.

From simple hair cuts, sets or perm, we take more adventurous tasks such as hair colourants.

A few years ago one of our late residents, Sylvia, started a new trend, having a streak of bright purple applied on her snow white hair. It looked sensational, and she received many compliments.

Just very recently, our resident, Rosie asked for a pink hair. After a fair amount of time spent on looking and comparing

hair colourants, Rosie settled for a nice pastel pink.

Rosie wasn't the first resident that requested to have their hair coloured in a vibrant tone.

WW: Rosie, what's the story behind the pink?

Rosie: I like pink. Most of my clothes and favorite toys are pink.

WW: Have you had other colours before?

Rosie: No, I always liked pink. Sometimes lighter, sometimes darker.

I also like to match my clothes and make sure that they always have something pink in them.

WW: Thank you very much for taking your time with me today.

Valentine's Day

WORD SEARCH

Q O H L O I E N V B L M O J N
G A X A L S C H E A R T S S H
I C H O C O L A T E C K D N G
F N L M K S R L Z I A W S X S
T H O D F W V G O F R C C Z K
S O X J T E R A X V D S A R H
V L S G G E H F L Z E R N T Y
V I O H M T D L M E J C D H B
R D R M H H A O D W N J Y F A
O A C Y U E T W P Y V T D K P
M Y P P G A E E Q W O T I P N
A R O Y C R F R I E N D S N Q
N F O E N T X S X C U P I D E
C Z K I S S X E W K Z J P G J
E O U Z A K A V Y C B S X K T

Sweetheart

Friends

Cupid

Kiss

Valentine

Flowers

Candy

Date

Chocolate

Holiday

Gifts

Card

Romance

Hearts

Love

Hug



February Entertainment



The return of
'Magic Dave'
Tue, 13th Feb 3pm



VALENTINE'S DAY
Live entertainment
by Trevor Santini
Thu, 15th Feb 3pm

ACTIVITIES

