



Scaffold Technical Support



## ULTRA ACCESS Happy New Year

Celebrating the end of the old, and the beginning of the new

**New Year's Eve**, observed on **December 31<sup>st</sup>** each year, marks the transition from the old year to the new, a moment steeped in anticipation, reflection, and festivity across the globe.

In Britain, this occasion holds a unique cultural resonance, blending ancient customs with modern revelry.

The time of year, originally known as "**Hogmanay**" in Scotland, **New Year's Eve** is not merely a party, but a profound ritual that underscores themes of community, nostalgia, and hope.

The origins of **New Year's Eve** celebrations in Britain trace back to pre-Christian times, influenced by Celtic, early Saxon and Norse traditions.

The Romans introduced the Julian calendar, fixing January 1st as the new year's start, but it was the Gregorian calendar's adoption in 1752 that standardised the date across the British Isles.

Hogmanay predates Christmas in cultural importance for Scots, partly due to the historical suppression of Christmas celebrations during the Protestant Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

This shift elevated **New Year's Eve** as the primary winter festival, emphasising themes of cleansing and renewal - with customs like "redding the house" (thorough cleaning) symbolise sweeping away the old year's misfortunes.



Culturally, **New Year's Eve** signifies a collective pause for introspection among British people.

In a nation known for its stoic reserve, this night allows for uncharacteristic emotional openness.

Families and friends gather, often in homes or pubs, to toast the past and give our hopes for a better future.

Central to British **New Year's Eve** is the song "**Auld Lang Syne**", a poignant anthem that captures the night's essence.

Written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788, the song is based on an older folk ballad, with Burns claiming he "took it down from an old man's singing."

The title translates from Scots as "old long since," meaning "days gone by" or "for the sake of old times."

Its lyrics evoke nostalgia, friendship, and the passage of time, making it a fitting soundtrack for midnight toasts worldwide, though its roots are deeply Scottish - and thus British.

**In retrospect:** It's been a difficult year for many in Britain, with the coming years looking ever-more bleak and restrictive of both free speech, freedom of expression and criticism of the vast changes to our way of life and erosion of our globally influential culture, none-of-which is wanted or supported by the British people.

And as with all the times previously in our history where we faced evil and malevolent ideologies, we can only hope that the old British spirit stays stoic and defiant, and **together we will help Good triumph once more in the face of homegrown tyranny, oppression and corruption...**

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