


Walpurgis Night

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1st of May






In Estonia, **Volbriöö** is celebrated on the night from April 30 to May 1, with the following day (May 1) being a public holiday of lesser importance called "Spring Day" (Kevadpüha). Yet Volbriöö itself has considerable importance as one of the main reasons to party across the country. Influenced by German culture, the night originally stood for the gathering and meeting of witches. Nowadays some people still dress up as witches and wander the streets in a carnival-like mood.

The arrival of Volbripäev presented the spring's final victory over the winter, of which the most popular sign is the sowing of pulses. People built fires (May fire), rang bells, made lots of noise and did other rituals to deter all bad. Fires were only built on the ground (e.g. the bonfire was built on the top of a pole).

Certainly Volbripäev is one of those days, which mores have changed over the times and due to spreading:

Mores elsewhere in Estonia:

- In Haljala it is said that if it rains on Volbripäev, then the old witches are whisking.
 - In Kullamaa it is said that sparrows are coming.
 - In Torma people had to lay potatoes.
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In our kindergarten Volbriöö is celebrated with a big witch-party of the graduater groups. Children have the chance to spend the night in the kindergarten. The party begins with a witch feast.



A great witch-party with magic tricks and potions.





Potion to little witches...



"Little Witch" written by Otfried Preussler is a very interesting book and after the party children watched television spectacle "Little Witch" together

and then good night.



Morning gymnastics and a new day begins.

