

Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake

Today I'm going to talk about an event called The Rolling Cheese of Cooper Hill.

The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake is an annual event held on the Spring Day in Cooper's Hill, near Gloucester in England. Participants race down a 200-metre-long hill in pursuit of a wheel of Double Gloucester cheese.

The event has a long tradition, organized by the people of the local village of Brockworth.

This ceremony was originally held every Whit Monday, but was later moved to the Spring Day. The first written evidence of cheese rolling is found in a written message to the town crier of Gloucester in 1826. But it is believed that the event is an old tradition, dating back at least six hundred years.

Two possible origins have been proposed. First, it may have arisen out of a requirement to maintain grazing rights on common lands. Secondly, there may be pagan origins for the custom of rolling objects down the hill. It is believed that bundles of burning brush were rolled up the hillside to represent the birth of the New Year after winter.

A 3 to 4 kilo, Double Gloucester Cheese is sent from the top of the hill. The competitors then begin to run down the hill after the cheese. The first person to cross the finish line at the bottom of the hill wins the cheese. Competitors aim to catch the cheese that can reach speeds of up to 110 kilometers per hour. Several races take place during the day, with separate events for men and women.

Due to the steep slope and uneven surface of Cooper's Hill, there usually several injuries each year. A first aid service is at the bottom of the hill. Many ambulances participate in the event as there are invariably at least one and often several injuries requiring hospitalization.

The Double Gloucester is a semi-soft cheese – Made since the 16th century.

<https://youtu.be/qjSUK9o-D6E>