

Irish Customs – When Christmas was forbidden

Oliver Cromwell had a devastating effect on Irish life, **but did you know** that in 1642 he banned the performance of all plays, including the traditional mummers shows. In 1644 Christmas was made illegal by an Act of Parliament. They forbade shops to close and provided penalties for those who dared to make mince pies or plum pudding. Churches were ordered to close and offices were ordered to remain open. Two years after the death of Oliver Cromwell many of these laws were repealed and Christmas was celebrated once again.