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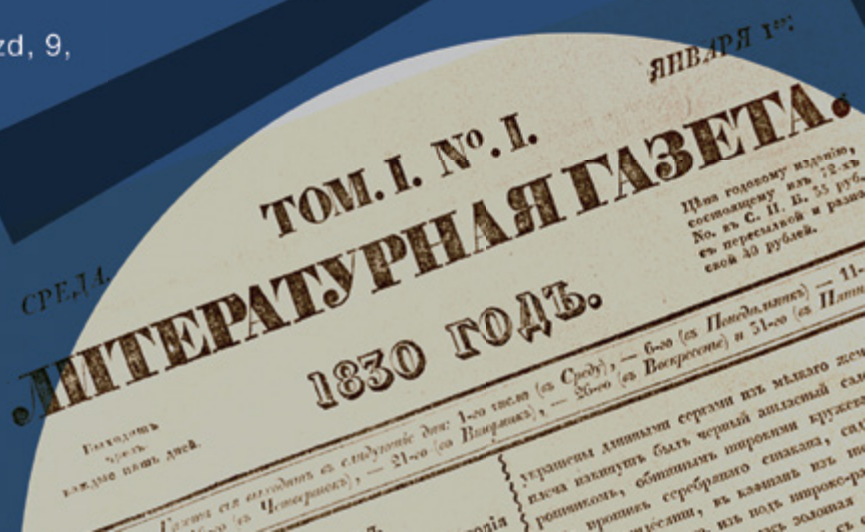
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EDITOR'S LETTER DESPERATE EUROPE



All EU countries face a desperate political struggle which we had never seen before even during the period when powerful Communist Parties explicitly supporting the USSR were conducting their activities in some Western European countries. At that moment far-right parties had not been established yet, but where they existed, it was only at the group level.

De Gaulle who ruled France from 1958 to 1969, preferred to say that there was nothing else between him and Communists. There was nothing in between Christian democrats and Communists in Italy too. Social democrats played as left-wingers in West Germany, as the Communist Party was banned there. Despite apparent intolerance of the opposing

camps, the political situation was relatively peaceful until the student riots of 1968. However calm had prevailed even between 1968 and 1989. Everything has changed drastically with the collapse of communism and the utopia supported by it.

Nowadays the far-right opposition has replaced the communist one almost in all EU countries. Unknown transversal trends, such as Euroscepticism or Europhobia, came to light. Such supposedly rightless subject as a “migrant” has surprisingly gained both attractive and disaffecting political power.

The list of transformations is endless. But the phenomenon of reorientation in political criteria itself proves a deep systemic crisis of the regime.

We often interpret the term “crisis” as something negative. However, the word etymology argues the opposite. The crisis is a solution and a turning point. There is nothing negative in it. So, let us stay positive!

Victor Loupan

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HIGHLIGHTS

BREXIT AS AN EPIPHENOMENON

Any – even the most perfect – regimes are subject to a state of decline after which a somersault period is coming to light

VICTOR LOUPAN,
Head of the Editorial Board

“Brexit is Brexit!” This weird – but only at the first glance – banner was displayed in front of the British Parliament being supported by an old but vigorous Englishman. The banner had a poor design, however, a severe style of this gentlemen evidenced his noble origin. As we discovered later, this nattily and classy dressed man was a retired Colonel of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces. His appearance with this banner was his first public expression of his personal political views. We did not catch whether he voted to “leave” or “remain” three years ago, i. e. pro or contra of British exit from the European Union. “What does it matter?” he asked, “people voted pro!”

We have learned this democracy lesson. Whatever be your intellectual principles, however passionate you were about your political beliefs – when the people vote for something, then politicians, ruling circles, power holders shall translate it into an action.

The 2016 national referendum in Great Britain was focused on a very simple question. The citizens were asked whether they were pro or contra of exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. People decisively answered “yes”.

It would seem, what would be easier? But, as it turned out, it just appeared so. Because British lawmakers elected by people have initiated a real “war of laws”. The first attack was pointed to Theresa May who haggled with the

European Union long and wearily and finally reached an agreement. However, her “deal” was repeatedly refused by the Parliament, and the poor Prime Minister left her office at 10 Downing Street being ugly drowned in tears.

Extravagant Boris Johnson who came to replace her in the office declared immediately that, irrespective of “deal” or “no deal”, Great Britain will “anyway” leave the EU. That led to a real Fronde in the British Parliament. Mr. Johnson who held a small but conservative majority before, was betrayed by his fellows in the Party and he lost the majority. The “traitors” were not large in number and they had been excluded from the Party membership. But it really has changed nothing. In combination with the opposition, they voted to “remain” in the



EU as of 31 October in case of “no deal”. They rejected the “deal” when Theresa May was in her office too.

Angry Boris Johnson announced early national election. But the lawmakers screwed him again, completely

having blocked any actions expected from executive power side. It was not a new game as they had been playing this way long before. But this time it became clear to everyone that they would never allow the British exit from the EU. The UK’s mass media declared in chorus, “Chaos!”, like if they had made an arrangement. But Boris Johnson put a hold face on and went on the war-path despite an impressive line of legislative failures. He referred lawmakers fighting against Brexit to as “public enemies” and the Parliament generally as the oligarchic organisation opposing people power.

Actually, populist rhetoric applied by the British Prime Minister does not lack certain logic. In 2007 anti-EU referendum held in France was nullified by newly-elected President Nicolas Sarkozy with the support of the Parliament members. The Netherlands faced almost the same situation. Namely, European lawmakers promoted by the political parties and elected by people turn into people’s opponents as soon as people are granted the opportunity to speak loud directly.

Referendum is the most important institute for direct democracy. Referendum displays people’s immediate law-making initiative stipulated by the Constitution. For example, referendum is a usual procedure in Switzerland where no one may have an idea to stand against its outcome. But Switzerland is not an



EU member state. Representative democracy in the EU is going through a grave crisis, particularly due to the fact that those who are authorised to govern the country in accordance with people’s will and represent the people before different state authorities, actually represent and defend the interests of transnational oligarchic organisations but not the people’s interests. It is not correct to argue that “It has always been the case”. No, this was not always the case. Merely, any – even the most perfect – regimes are subject to a state of decline after which somersault periods are coming to light.

Parliamentarism in a parliamentary democracy is almost equal to clericalism for the Church. It means caste, clannish power which true essence includes defense of the interests of the specific ruling elite. What we observe now in Great Britain is a case in point.

Modern populism arises when people begin protesting against “oligarchic rule” inculcated from above – sometimes at an irrational level of thinking. Trump, Brexit, success of far-right parties in most EU countries, growing Euroscepticism, “Yellow vests” – all of them have the same roots.

I perceived it as a grotesque play on words when unforgettable Russian philosopher Alexander Alexandrovich Zinoviev applied the terms “post-democracy” or “totalitarian democracy” about twenty years ago. But today the matters he observed and analysed at some point are literally alive and can be detected without obstacles.

The famous New York-based feature writer Susan Sontag has a much-talked-of book “Illness as Metaphor”. She speaks that serious patients are often accused of their illness with the interpretation of their severe distress as

damnation, or punishment for something, or the divine scourge.

Brexit as manifestation of populism is also considered by European elites as people’s severe illness. People are warned and said that they would pay heavy price, suffer from such terrible metastases as poverty, social chaos, political desperation. When fighting against democratic declaration of people’s will, European elites likely save it from dangerous vindication sickness cunningly penetrating their thinking and being through their own fault.

At the metapolitical level, it is completely and utterly irrelevant whether Brexit happens or not, because Brexit is an epiphenomenon, an attachment to the phenomenon. But the phenomenon itself is a developing process of modification of material and ideal content of the world to which all of us are witnesses.

DISSENTING OPINION

MOVING FROM G7 TO G10

The Western world binding itself with globalisation relationship lives long under a sword of Damocles of a global economic collapse

THEODOR TETOV

The British observer Stephen King who wrote several articles on the “end of globalisation era” has called G7 as “anachronism”. He would not be more precise when describing this political gathering failing to resolve any issues over the last years, even with “Uncle Sam” expressing its enlightened opinion on one or another matter.

This was not always the case. At least 35 years ago during the meeting of industrial G5 (USA, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Japan) the country leaders reached a consensus on a wide range of matters and even signed the Plaza Agreement, as it was unofficially called due to its place of signing in Plaza Hotel which dominated the Central Park area in New York.

It was the right time to sign this agreement! The financial market saw-sawed: US dollar was overestimated (with the evident support of American banks and the Federal Reserve System), but global international trade was a mess which was delicately described by smart US financial experts as “imbalance”. Industrial G5 developed and approved a global bailout plan under the threat of economic crisis which might arise in one or more countries.

Americans agreed to give an undertaking to focus on their budget gap aiming at reducing their local business activity. Germans and Japanese took the obligation to concentrate

on boosters of their domestic economies. French and British experts decided to go into macroeconomics. As a result, the value of the dollar dropped as a bird, but yen and mark went to their peaks. “Imbalance” of international trade had turned to slow correction. Germany and Japan increased their import, but USA expanded their export.

Should such consensus be reached nowadays, it would be called nei-



ther more nor less than a miracle. Of course, when it comes to politics (to be more accurate, to anti-Russia incantations), the USA and Western Europe often sing in unison. But it is far from always being advantageous to everyone. When it comes to economies, the “liberal democracies” (as Western countries call themselves) binding themselves with globalisation relationship live long under a sword of Damocles of a global economic collapse. Let us imagine that for any reason the automotive concern Volkswagen ceases its activity. That means closing of Audi, ŠKODA, Volkswagen,

SEAT, Scania, MAN, and even Bentley, Porsche, Bugatti and Lamborghini manufacturing companies.

One may argue that concerns like Volkswagen are free of any risks. Who knows! The world is at the crossroads now: they choose between a total transition to electric cars and disregard of the Greens with further production of internal combustion engines. Actually, the main choice is not the type of engine. Let us reflect on it. The number of cars in Great Britain approaches 35 million. Their replacement with electric cars will require nearly 70 million batteries exchangeable every 5–6 years that means 140 million batteries over the decade. Who will supply as much lithium as they need? Who will produce as much batteries as they need? How will they waste hundred millions exhausted batteries on this small island? Has anyone considered all these problems?

G7 is no more able to resolve this issue globally – just because a private nature of the negotiations among the leaders of the USA and the other six industrial powers narrows their vision, while production in the modern world already has become global. We cannot think of current negotiations on global problems held without China (which is the world’s second largest economy winning the US based on many parameters), Russia (that constantly takes the sixth rank among the largest contributors to the world GDP despite the twelfth rank for the nominal



GDP value), India (which is the third in the same parameter after China and US), or Brazil (which has beaten out Canada in GDP long ago).

In other words, even though in the middle of the 1980s G7 took lead with ease on speaking on behalf of the group of major industrial powers which economies were leading on the principal territory called the “area of liberal economies”, modern G7 is not capable to do so again. It is not authorized to speak on behalf of the majority of the world population. Currently the member countries of G7 are home to nearly 750 million people. But China, India, Russia, Brazil, and South Africa being BRICS members number 3,180 million people.

According to notable political analysts, G7 not including BRICS states as “club” members will unavoidably lose its importance due to a wide range of factors. We detect now that G7 is not capable to resolve climate, migration, economic turbulence issues, especial-

ly when related to volatility of energy markets or influence of regional conflicts on various economies in different parts of the world. But even if G7 manages to elaborate a single frame of mind and put any demands upon any country or region – who will warrant their implementation?

Over the last decades the majority of people witnessed that Western countries being NATO, G7 or EU members and continuously marching in lockstep with the American policy, repeatedly violated international law principles, committed aggressions (against Libya, Iraq, Yugoslavia and other countries), adopted joint resolutions leading to disasters in undeveloped countries, heightened tensions in different regions. Moreover, their current domestic politics also feature many crisis developments: division of British citizens regarding Brexit, massive street protests in France, “excessive” immigration to France, Belgium and, of course, Germany.

Consequently, glory of these countries – both individual and collective as of G7 members – has dropped as never before. If these countries still desire to manage a tool for elaboration of mutual economic solutions and determination of their mutual mid-term economic strategy, they need to invite other countries to the “club” too. Formulated differently, the globe needs G10 consisting of other members: USA, Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Russia, China, India, and Brazil.

Only this combination of countries will be able (with moderate ambitions and strong judgment) to create the ways of economic recovery of the countries and regions and elimination of their crisis developments which can be understood – and accepted! – by the nations as necessary, reasonable and efficient efforts made to the interests of many nations, but not as a private decision only.

INTERVIEW

VLADIMIR PUTIN: “WE ALWAYS ASSESS RISKS”

On the eve of the G20 summit, Vladimir Putin spoke with The Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber.

Lionel Barber: Mr President, I would be very grateful if you could talk a bit about how you have seen the world change over the last 20 years while you have been in power.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin: First, I have not been in power for all these 20 years. As you may know, I was Prime Minister for four years, and that is not the highest authority in the Russian Federation. But nevertheless, I have been around for a long time in government and in the upper echelons, so I can judge what is changing and how. In fact, you just said it yourself, asking what has changed and how.

Lionel Barber: Do you believe that the world now has become more fragmented?

Vladimir Putin: Of course, because during the Cold War, the bad thing was the Cold War. It is true. But there were at least some rules that all participants in international communication more or less adhered to or tried to follow. Now, it seems that there are no rules at all. In this sense, the world has become more fragmented and less predictable, which is the most important and regrettable thing.

Lionel Barber: Mr President, you have observed four American presidents at close quarters and will maybe five, you have had direct experience. So, how is Mr Trump different?

Vladimir Putin: We are all different. No two people are the same, just like there are no identical sets of fingerprints. Anyone has his or her own advantages, and let the voters judge their shortcomings. On the whole, I main-

tained sufficiently good-natured and stable relations with all the leaders of the United States. I had an opportunity to communicate more actively with some of them.

The first US President I came into contact with was Bill Clinton. Generally, I viewed this as a positive experience. We established sufficiently stable and business-like ties for a short period of time because his tenure was already coming to an end. I was only a very young president then who had just started working. I continue to recall how he established partner-like relations with me. I remain very grateful to him for this.

There have been different times, and we had to address various problems with all other colleagues. Unfortunately, this often involved debates, and our opinions did not coincide on some matters that, in my opinion, can be called key aspects for Russia, the United States and the entire world. For example, this includes the unilateral US withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty that, as we have always believed, and as I am still convinced, was the cornerstone of the entire international security system.

We debated this matter for a long time, argued and suggested various solutions. In any event, I made very energetic attempts to convince our US partners not to withdraw from the Treaty. And, if the US side still wanted to withdraw from the Treaty, it should have done so in such a way as to guarantee international security for a long historical period. I suggested this, I have already discussed this in public, and I repeat that I did this because I consider this matter to be very important. I suggested working jointly on missile-defence projects



that should have involved the United States, Russia and Europe. They stipulated specific parameters of this cooperation, determined dangerous missile approaches and envisioned technology exchanges, the elaboration of decision-making mechanisms, etc. Those were absolutely specific proposals.

I am convinced that the world would be a different place today, had our US partners accepted this proposal. Unfortunately, this did not happen. We can see that the situation is developing

in another direction; new weapons and cutting-edge military technology are coming to the fore. Well, this is not our choice. But, today, we should at least do everything so as to not aggravate the situation.

Lionel Barber: Mr President, you are a student of history. You have

tional interests. I do not accept many of his methods when it comes to addressing problems. But do you know what I think? I think that he is a talented person. He knows very well what his voters expect from him.

Russia has been accused, and, strange as it may seem, it is still being

China has made use of globalisation, in particular, to pull millions of Chinese out of poverty.

What happened in the United States, and how did it happen? In the United States, the leading US companies – the companies, their managers, shareholders and partners – made use

had many hours of conversation with Henry Kissinger. You almost certainly read his book, World Order. With Mr Trump, we have seen something new, something much more transactional. He is very critical of alliances and allies in Europe. Is this something that is to Russia's advantage?

Vladimir Putin: It would be better to ask what would be to America's advantage in this case. Mr Trump is not a career politician. He has a distinct world outlook and vision of US na-

accused, despite the Mueller report, of mythical interference in the US election. What happened in reality? Mr Trump looked into his opponents' attitude to him and saw changes in American society, and he took advantage of this.

Has anyone ever given a thought to who actually benefited and what benefits were gained from globalisation, the development of which we have been observing and participating in over the past 25 years, since the 1990s?

of these benefits. The middle class hardly benefitted from globalisation. The take-home pay in the US (we are likely to talk later about real incomes in Russia, which need special attention from the Government). The middle class in the United States has not benefited from globalisation; it was left out when this pie was divided up.

The Trump team sensed this very keenly and clearly, and they used this in the election campaign. It is where you should look for reasons behind

Trump's victory, rather than in any alleged foreign interference. This is what we should be talking about here, including when it comes to the global economy.

I believe this may explain his seemingly extravagant economic decisions and even his relations with his partners and allies. He believes that the distribution of resources and benefits of globalisation in the past decade was unfair to the United States.

I am not going to discuss whether it was fair or not, and I will not say if what he is doing is right or wrong. I would like to understand his motives, which is what you asked me about. Maybe this could explain his unusual behaviour.

Lionel Barber: Mr President, Russia and China have definitely come closer. Are you putting too many eggs in the China basket? Because Russian foreign policy, including under your leadership, has always made a virtue of talking to everybody.

Vladimir Putin: First of all, we have enough eggs, but there are not that many baskets where these eggs can be placed. This is the first point.

Secondly, we always assess risks.

Thirdly, our relations with China are not motivated by timeserving political any other considerations. Let me point out that the Friendship Treaty with China was signed in 2001, if memory serves, long before the current situation and long before the current economic disagreements, to put it mildly, between the United States and China.

We do not have to join anything, and we do not have to direct our policy against anyone. In fact, Russia and China are not directing their policy against anyone. We are just consistently implementing our plans for expanding cooperation. We have been doing this since 2001, and we are just consistently implementing these plans.

Take a look at what is written there. We have not done anything that transcends the framework of these accords. So there is nothing unusual

here, and you should not search for any implications of the Chinese-Russian rapprochement. Of course, we assess the current global developments; our positions coincide on a number of matters on the current global agenda, including our attitude towards compliance with generally accepted rules in trade, the international financial system, payments and settlements.

The G20 has played a very tangible role. Since its inception in 2008, when



the financial crisis flared up, the G20 has accomplished many useful things for stabilising the global financial system, for developing global trade and ensuring its stabilisation. I am talking about the tax aspect of the global agenda, the fight against corruption, and so on. Both China and Russia adhere to this concept.

The G20 has accomplished a lot by advocating quota changes at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Both Russia and China share this approach. Considering the major increase in the global economic share of emerging markets, this is fair and right, and we have been voicing this position from the very beginning. And we are glad that this continues to develop and to proceed in line with changes in global trade.

Over the past 25 years or so (25, I believe), the share of G7 countries in the global GDP has declined from 58 percent to 40 percent. This should also be reflected in international institutions in some way. That is the

common position of Russia and China. This is fair, and there is nothing special about this.

Yes, Russia and China have many coinciding interests, this is true. This is what motivates our frequent contacts with President Xi Jinping. Of course, we have also established very warm personal relations, and this is natural.

Therefore, we are moving in line with our mainstream bilateral agenda that was formulated as far back

as 2001, but we quickly respond to global developments. We never direct our bilateral relations against anyone. We are not against anyone, we are for ourselves.

Lionel Barber: I am relieved that this egg supply is strong. But the serious point, Mr President, is, you are familiar with Graham Allison's book, *The Thucydides's Trap*. The danger of tensions or a military conflict risk between a dominant power and a rising power, America and China. Do you think that there is a risk of a military conflict in your time between you, America and China?

Vladimir Putin: You know, the entire history of mankind has always been full of military conflicts, but since the appearance of nuclear weapons the risk of global conflicts has decreased due to the potential global tragic consequences for the entire population of the planet in case such a conflict happens between two nuclear states. I hope it will not come to this.

However, of course, we have to ad-

mit that it is not only about China's industrial subsidies on the one hand or the tariff policy of the United States on the other. First of all, we are talking about different development platforms, so to speak, in China and in the United States. They are different and you, being a historian, probably will agree with me. They have different philosophies in both foreign and domestic policies, probably.

But I would like to share some personal observations with you. They are not about allied relations with one country or a confrontation with the other; I am just observing what is going on at the moment. China is showing loyalty and flexibility to both its partners and opponents. Maybe this is related to the historical features of Chinese philosophy, their approach to building relations.

Therefore, I do not think that there would be some such threats from China. I cannot imagine that, really. But it is hard to say whether the United States would have enough patience not to make any rash decisions, but to respect its partners even if there are disagreements. But I hope, I would like to repeat this again, I hope that there would not be any military confrontation.

Lionel Barber: Arms control. We know that the INF agreement is in grave jeopardy. Is there any place, from Russia's point of view, for future arms control agreements or are we in a new phase when we are likely to see a new nuclear arms race?

Vladimir Putin: I believe there is such a risk.

As I said already, the United States unilaterally withdrew from the ABM Treaty, and has recently quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty as well. But this time, it did not just quit but found a reason to quit, and this reason was Russia. I do not think Russia means anything to them in this case, because this war theatre, the war theatre in Europe is unlikely to be interesting to the US, despite the expansion of NATO and NATO's contingent near our borders. The fact re-

mains, the US has withdrawn from the treaty. Now the agenda is focused on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). I hope that I will be able to talk about it with Donald if we happen to meet in Osaka.

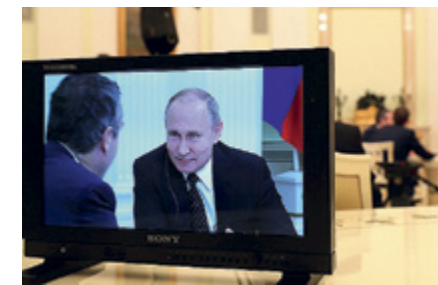
We said that we are ready to hold talks and to extend this treaty between the United States and Russia, but we have not seen any relevant initiative from our American partners. They keep silent, while the treaty expires in 2021. If we do not begin talks now, it would be over because there would be no time even for formalities.

Our previous conversation with Donald showed that the Americans seem to be interested in this, but still they are not making any practical steps. So if this treaty ceases to exist, then there would be no instrument in the world to curtail the arms race. And this is bad.

Lionel Barber: Exactly, the gloves are off. Is there any chance of a triangular agreement between China, Russia and America on intermediate nuclear forces or is that a dream, pie in the sky? Would you support such an end?

Vladimir Putin: As I said at the very beginning, we will support any agreement that can advance our cause, that is, help us contain the arms race.

It should be said that so far, the level and the development scale of China's nuclear forces are much lower than in the United States and Russia. China is a huge power that has the capability to build up its nuclear potential.



This will likely happen in the future, but so far our capabilities are hardly comparable. Russia and the United States are the leading nuclear powers, which is why the agreement was

signed between them. As for whether China will join these efforts, you can ask our Chinese friends.

Lionel Barber: Russia is a Pacific power as well as a European and Asian power. It is a Pacific power. You have seen what the Chinese are doing in terms of their build-up of their Navy and their maritime strength. How do you deal with those potential security problems, territorial disputes in the Pacific? Does Russia have a role to play in a new security arrangement?

Vladimir Putin: You mentioned the build-up of naval forces in China. China's total defence spending is \$117 billion, if memory serves. The US defence spending is over \$700 billion. And you are trying to scare the world with the build-up of China's military might? It does not work with this scale of military spending. No, it does not.

As for Russia, we will continue to develop our Pacific Fleet as planned. Of course, we also respond to global developments and to what happens in relations between other countries. We can see all of this, but it does not affect our defence development plans, including those in the Russian Far East.

We are self-sufficient, and we are confident. Russia is the largest continental power. But we have a nuclear submarine base in the Far East, where we are developing our defence potential in accordance with our plans, including so that we can ensure safety on the Northern Sea Route, which we are planning to develop.

We intend to attract many partners to this effort, including our Chinese partners. We may even reach an agreement with American shippers and with India, which has also indicated its interest in the Northern Sea Route.

I would say that we are also primed for cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, and I have grounds to believe that Russia can make a considerable, tangible and positive contribution to stabilising the situation.

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To be continued in our next issue

CULTURE

ORTHODOX RUSSIAN LONDON

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The starry domes, beeswax candles and iconic art of Orthodox churches in London provide a home from home for the ex-pat Orthodox Russian community.

On a leafy lane near Chiswick, in south-west London, the blue dome of a Russian Orthodox church rises surreally above the chestnut trees. Visible to drivers along the M4 on their way to and from Heathrow Airport, the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God and the Holy Royal Martyrs is, as the unwieldy name suggests, a symbolic statement of traditional faith in a city that growing numbers of Russians are adopting as a home from home.

With its classic onion dome, fretted with golden stars, tiny arched windows in the high whitewashed walls, as well as its signs in Russian, candles, icons and head-scarfed women, the Chiswick church certainly has the potency of a symbol. Its slightly remote location means it sometimes lacks the requisite energy.

A sign on the gate thanks the anonymous passers-by whose swift action in calling the police prevented recent thieves from further looting and vandalising the building.

The busy Cathedral of the Dormition and All Saints, located more centrally on Ennismore Gardens in Knightsbridge, holds morning and evening services every day. The church is part of the “Diocese of Sourozh” under the Moscow Patriarchate. Its guiding light for many years was the charismatic Metropolitan Anthony, who died in 2003. He developed a flexible, cosmopolitan brand of Orthodoxy, where rules about headscarves and

*Dormition Cathedral, London*

fasting were less strictly enforced. Many post-Soviet Russians arriving in London were unhappy about the laxity they found here, one of the causes of recent tensions and divisions.

According to one ex-parishioner, who prefers to remain anonymous as the issues involved are so sensitive, there have been several distressing splits between different groups within the Russian Orthodox Church in London. She says Metropolitan Anthony chose in the 50s and 60s to keep links with the Soviet Orthodox Patriarchate “in order to be allowed to visit Russia and send recordings and messages, which were a lifeline for all the secret Orthodox believers in the USSR.” There have been divisions between newer Russian expats and “descendants of Russian revolution ref-

ugees and later British converts”. She concludes sadly: “There seem to be so many warring factions now that I have now given up going anywhere.”

For those who have weathered the religious storms, the church is clearly an important centre for the Russian community; the notice boards are heaving with adverts: pilgrimages to Kiev and calls for film extras for Anna Karenina; nannies wanted and lost dogs sought. All life is here. You can even order organically-grown dill for that authentic Russian taste.

With its soaring Italianate bell tower and rose window, the church is a beautiful setting for the aesthetically rich Orthodox traditions. The iconostasis, a screen of gold-backed icons separating the priest’s sanctum from the rest of the church, glows in the

light of numerous bees wax candles, exuding that pungent and distinctive smell of honey.

Icons have always been a crucial part of Orthodox worship. As Richard Temple, who founded the Temple Gallery in 1959, explains: “Icons are part of the liturgy. The saints are present through their icons”. As a long-term collector, dealer and devotee, Temple believes that “icons have their own message in a material world”, a spiritual impulse you can powerfully sense in the tiny gold-on-gold gallery below his magical shop in Holland Park.

“My fascination is how Christianity emerges out of Hellenistic culture,” says Temple, who has written several books about icons including one titled *Icons and the mystical origins of Christianity*, now sadly out of print, but available second-hand. “It’s not fashionable,” adds Temple, explaining that art historians find the spiritual dimension of icons “embarrassing”. For Temple, it is precisely the “combination of artistic mastery and spiritual insight” that is so compelling, producing images “through which the artist’s gaze on eternity is reflected back to us.”

Temple has been involved in campaigns to open a dedicated icon room in the British Museum, which holds around a hundred icons of which ten are considered world class. A cata-

logue has been published and a Russian oligarch even offered to fund the display, but there is – as yet – little academic willingness to embrace this awkwardly mystical branch of art. Interest in icons is growing in other areas, though. Commercially, they are becoming more popular and artistically there has been a revival of older techniques. Irina Bradley of the Prince’s School of Traditional Arts in Shoreditch runs icon painting workshops.

Orthodox services are also held in St Andrew’s Church in Holborn (together with its sister parish in Clapham on alternate weekends), as part of the ecumenical Parish of the Dormition. St Andrews is not so permanently permeated by the nostalgic whiff of Russia as All Saints. The gold-robed priest and bleeding Christ behind him look a little startling in the barrel-vaulted church, rebuilt in the 1680s by the architect of St Paul’s Cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren.

London’s Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia (ROCORA) and its precursors have had a peripatetic history. There have been orthodox chapels in London since Peter the Great’s visit here in the late 17th century, but the activities of the church in exile intensified massively after the revolution. The beautiful hidden chapel on Welbeck Street, now used by commercial offices, hosted a memorial ceremony for the murdered Romanovs in 1917.

*Russian Dormition Church in Chiswick*

Since then London parishioners have worshipped in a variety of venues, including a church where Victoria coach station is now, a tiny chapel in Hammersmith and a church hall in Emperor’s gate. ROCORA has been involved in the canonisation of 30,000 new martyrs to and confessors of the Orthodox faith, killed and persecuted during the atheistic Soviet era.

A 1927 schism was patched up by the energetic Archimandrite Nicholas who, when he became a bishop, was instructed to “be not only an Orthodox servant of God, but a servant of Russia, sharing the highest sympathies with our Russian people.” Seeing no conflict between patriotism and universal love, Nicolas also had a special remit to foster Anglican converts to Orthodoxy.

It was Metropolitan Anthony, though, who remains the landmark figure in London’s Russian Orthodoxy. He was an intriguing character, working as a surgeon in the French army and secretly becoming a monk. His father was an imperial Russian diplomat; his mother was composer Alexander Scriabin’s sister. An international conference in Moscow in September on “The Church as community both human and divine” is dedicated to his legacy.

Geraldine Fagan, an expert on religious policy in Russia and soon to publish a book on the subject, describes Anthony as “greatly responsible for the Russian Orthodox Church having any presence in Britain at all” and says that “many people who became Orthodox in the UK did so precisely because of him”. On the noticeboard of the Ennismore Gardens cathedral, there are directions to his grave.

Overgrown with creepers and wild flowers, Brompton Cemetery is one of London’s most atmospheric corners, part neoclassical mausoleum, part rural churchyard. Metropolitan Anthony is buried near the colonnaded necropolis under a black orthodox cross, surrounded by bunches of roses and pots of lilies from some of the many believers whose lives he touched.

BRIT FOOD: TOP 10 CLASSIC BRITISH MEALS TO WARM YOUR SOUL AND FILL YOUR STOMACH

GUEST WRITER

Coronation chicken, faggots, bubble and squeak... the words are enough to bring up homey sights and smells from kitchens across Britain. Despite negative stereotypes (and years of living up to them), Britain has recently rediscovered the beauty and flavour of its culinary past, and good food is now easy to find all over the UK. It's an exciting time to be an Anglophile as classic British cuisine gets an overhaul, and British chefs whip new life into traditional favourites.

Here, in absolutely unbiased order, are ten of Britain's most beloved classic dishes, some newer, some older. There is no definitive list, of course, and no doubt some of your favourites are missing. Please leave a comment below and let us know about the scrumptious dishes I missed!

Bacon butty

According to the Top 100 Food Index commissioned by Food Network UK, bacon is Britain's #1 favourite food. Though it might sound unappetizing, a bacon butty is actually just a bacon sandwich – but the preparation of an authentic specimen must be executed very carefully. Everyone has their own opinion about the “perfect bacon butty,” but it's generally accepted that the bread must be white and on the dry side, the bacon crispy and full of flavor, and the condiments



added for moisture and flavor without becoming the star. Check out The Gentle Art of the Bacon Butty to see a detailed butty-making chart.

Haggis



This could be the British food with the all-time worst reputation. The national dish of Scotland, haggis is as classic as bagpipes and the Loch Ness monster. It's a kind of sausage made out of sheep's stomach, heart, and liver, fresh suet, oatmeal, onions, and various seasonings. Only a hard-core Scotophile would dare try one of these things, but if you're up for it here's a traditional haggis recipe.

Bangers and mash

Along with pie and mash, this dish is a British icon that's

been described as the “working class hero's meal.” As any good Anglophile knows, “bangers” are pork sausages and “mash” is short for mashed potatoes. If a hearty sausage with buttery warm taters doesn't get you salivating, then top it off with fried onions and

gravy. Mmmmm. The best part is you don't have to go to a pub to eat this dish; here's a recipe for making bangers and mash at home.

Cornish pasties

Also known as “oggies,” these savory treats are a specialty of Cornwall, and have been awarded protected status by the EU (in other words, if you're selling “Cornish Pasties” they'd better



be made in Britain's most south-west-erly county according to a strict set of guidelines). A pasty is defined as a mixture of chunky meat and vegeta-bles, wrapped in a hearty pastry case in a traditional crimped "D" shape. It has an illustrious history, dating back to the 1200s, and in the 18th century it was popular with poor Cornish min-ers who used the crimped crust as a disposable "handle" to hold with their sooty hands. Click here to watch a vid-[eo](#) on how authentic Cornish pasties are made.

Lancashire hotpot

Simple, but comforting, Lancashire Hotpot is a lamb and potato casserole layered with browned onion, fresh thyme, stock, and seasoning. It's the kind of dish that cooks slowly all after-



Recipe

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST

Ever wondered how to make a full English breakfast? Well here's our fool-proof method for the right timings.

READY IN 45 minutes
COOKING TIME 40 minutes
PREP TIME 5 minutes
SERVES 4

Ingredients

4 sausages
2 tomatoes, halved
300 g pack mini Portabella mush-rooms
3 tbsp vegetable oil
8 rashers smoked back bacon
3 slices white bread, cut into triangles
4 slices black pudding
400 g baked beans
4 medium free-range eggs

Method

Preheat the grill to medium-high. Pre-heat the oven to 120 °C, fan 100 °C, gas ½.

Grill the sausages for 15 minutes, turning occasionally, until golden and cooked through. Add the tomatoes, cut-side up, and the mushrooms for the last 10 minutes of cooking. Remove from the grill and keep warm in the oven.

Heat a large frying pan and add 1 ta-blespoon oil. Add the bacon and fry until crisp and golden on both sides. Remove from the pan and keep warm.

Fry the bread in the pan for 2–3 min-utes on each side, until golden. Add 1 tbsp oil to the pan, then fry the black pudding for 2–3 minutes, until crisp on both sides. Remove from the pan and keep warm.

Place the baked beans in a small sauce-pan and simmer for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the remaining 1 ta-blespoon oil in a clean, large frying pan, then crack in the eggs and fry until the white has just set and the yolks are still slightly runny.

To serve, divide among 4 plates and serve with mugs of tea.



noon, then gets drawn out of the oven, bub-bling and smelling like heaven. Perfect for a party with lots of friends!

Fish and chips



Possibly Britain's na-tional dish, fish and chips is one of the most popular meals in the UK. While fried fish and potatoes aren't unique to British cuisine, the Brits were the first to put the two together in a big way, and now with an estimated 10,500+ chippies (fish and chip shops) at its disposal, the UK consumes 250 million fish and chip meals annually. Last year a pub in Yorkshire fried the World's Largest Fish & Chips, weighing in at a shocking 45.36 kg (100 lbs.). The dish is "a force for national unity."

Roast beef and yorkshire pudding



These two dishes simply can't be separated; together they create what might be Britain's most famous meal. Nothing says Sunday dinner like a juicy slice of roast beef and a crispy Yorkshire pudding, all drenched in gravy. Though it's called a pudding, this is actually nothing like the Christ-mas plum pudding or chocolate pudding. It's a batter pudding, and the "secret ingredient" that makes it so tasty is the drippings from the roast. Discover how to bake light and lovely Yorkshire puddings.

Scones



Britain isn't Britain without tea, and tea isn't tea without scones. While the fluffy Claridge's variety is a staple, there are plenty of oth-er kinds: girdle scones (soda scones from Scotland), Welsh cakes (a cross between a fruit scone and a pan-[cake](#)), and tattie scones (made with potatoes) are just a few. Sweet and savory, covered in clotted cream and jam or simply served warm with butter, scones are eternal favorites.

Steak and kidney pie



The British love their internal or-gans, or at least those of oxen, sheep, and pigs. Once eaten as a cheap and filling meal, steak and kidney pie is now a comfort food for many Brits and Anglophiles. Usually consisting of beef, kidneys, onion, and gravy, some recipes liven it up with wine, mushrooms, and puff pastry. Cockney rhyming slang has had fun with this dish, coming up with Kate and Sidney pie, snake and kiddy pie, and snake and pygmy pie. Here are two recipes for steak and kidney pie, one easier and one lighter.

Toad-in-the-hole

Last but not least, toad-in-the-hole is one of those curiously named foods that earns strange looks from outsiders. It's pretty simple, actually, like a gigantic Yorkshire pudding poured over bangers (you can also make individual toads in a muffin tin). Pick your favorite sausag-es, whip up the batter, and you're a lit-tle over half an hour away from classic British bliss. Try this economical and heart-warming dish at your next family supper with this easy guide.



BOOKS

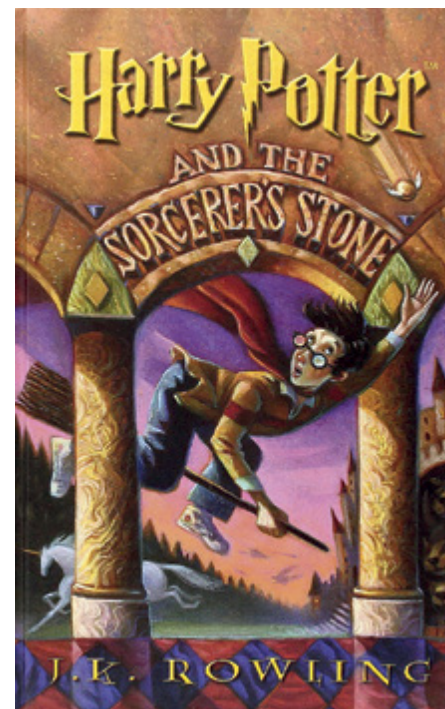
JOLLY HOCKEY STICKS AND QUIDDITCH – 10 BOOKS ABOUT BRITISH SCHOOLS

NORMAN MILLER

From Malory Towers and Greyfriars to Hogwarts and St Trinian's, some of our best-loved childhood books were set in schools. But which books feature the best (and worst) teachers and playground heroes?

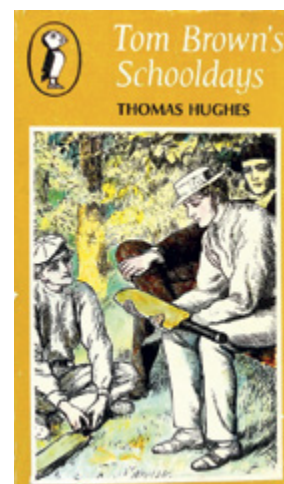
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (1997)

J K Rowling's debut novel in what became one of the most successful series of books ever. This opener introduces Hogwarts school, an institution



by a Scottish loch combining the magical with the wacky in a uniquely British way. Millions followed its students and teachers – good, evil and all shades in between – over seven books, culminating in 2007's Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

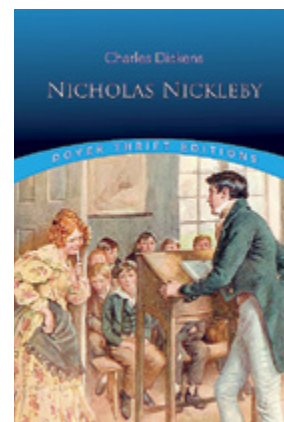
Tom Brown's School Days (1857)



The first and only real-life school on this list, the prestigious Rugby School was backdrop for a classic tale of Victorian education. Much of the book was inspired by author Thomas Hughes's own experiences at Rugby. The vile bully Flashman also inspired a successful 20th-century series of novels by George MacDonald Fraser, chronicling the cad's fictional adult exploits around the world.

Nicholas Nickleby (1838)

Another cruel Victorian boarding school – Dotheboys Hall – features in Charles Dickens's tale. Appar-



ently modelled on a real-life Yorkshire school called Bowes Academy, it's described in the book as offering "no extras, no vacations, and diet unparalleled". The eponymous protagonist is a teacher who tries to improve the miserable lives of the pupils under the rule of vicious headmaster Wackford Squeers (cool name, bad man).

First Term at Malory Towers (1946)

Enid Blyton wrote six books chronicling life at Malory girls' school – though Bly-

ton didn't think much about the titles (Second Form at Malory Towers, Third Year at Malory Towers, etc)! The school is based on Benenden, attended by Blyton's daughter. The books' heroine – Darrell Rivers – is an adventurous spirit who tames her fiery temper on route to becoming head girl and a whizz at lacrosse. Hurrah!



St Trinian's (1946–1952)

Rather than a novel, this was a popular comic strip by Ronald Searle that inspired a series of brilliant films cele-



brating British anarchic humour via a bunch of juvenile delinquent schoolgirls at a chaotic school dubbed a "female borstal". The girls are scandal in gymslips, glorying in violence, booze and criminality – and the teachers aren't much better. Searle was reputedly partly inspired by Perse School for Girls in Cambridge.

Down with Skool (1953)

Droll teenage slacker Nigel Molesworth narrates the first of a wonderful series by Geoffrey Willans (wittily illustrated by St Trinian's creator Ronald Searle). The books glory in terrible spelling and mockery of posh school traditions at the fictional St Custard's. Ridiculously named pupils are complemented by mad teachers like Sigismund Arbuthnot. The head, meanwhile, runs a whelk stall on the side. Brilliant – "as any fule kno".



Jane Eyre (1847)

Lowood is the grim Victorian boarding school for poor and orphaned girls attended by Charlotte Brontë's heroine. Its harsh environment includes freezing rooms, awful food plus cruel headmaster, Mr Brocklehurst (anyone spotting a trend here?). There's also a typhus outbreak and Jane's best friend dies in her arms, but Brontë still conjures a happy ending.



Goodbye, Mr Chips (1934)

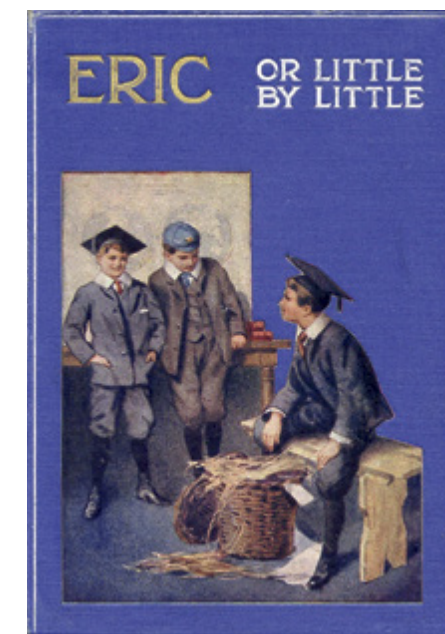
Brookfield Grammar is centre stage in this much-loved novel, adapted several times for the screen. It tells the story of a wonderful teacher's 43-year-long teaching career and is thought to be modelled on the Leys boarding school in Cambridge attended by author James Hilton. At last, a happy boarding school experience... clearly a work of fiction.



Billy Bunter of Greyfriars School (1947)

Greedy, stupid, lazy, racist and smug. Hardly an ideal British public school boy, yet George Orwell in 1940 described Billy Bunter as a character "famous wherever the Union Jack waves". Created by

Charles Hamilton (writing as Frank Richards) Bunter did his thing in the Greyfriars' Lower Fourth in stories first serialised in a boys' paper called The Magnet.

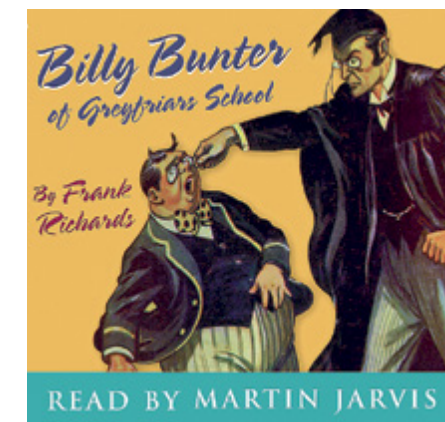


Eric, or, Little by Little (1858)

Rather than a pupil triumphing over circumstance, Frederic Farrar's Victorian morality tale follows the descent into "folly and wickedness" of the son of a British couple sent to English boarding school while they are abroad in Imperial India. The fictional Roslyn

School was based on a cross between King William's College on the Isle of

Man (where Farrar studied) and posh public school Marlborough College (where he became master).



FILMS

AMAZING FILMS THAT WILL MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ENGLAND

JULIE FALCONER

From the countryside to the cities, there are inspiring films that cover England from coast to coast and always have me itching to travel to where they're set.

Shakespeare in Love

Shakespeare in Love is my all-time favourite film set in England. This romantic classic fuses everything I love about Shakespeare with everything I love about Tom Stoppard, who co-wrote the screenplay.

From comedic scenes with lots of cross-dressing to subtle references to Shakespeare's plays, the film tells the (fictional) story of Shakespeare falling for a woman he can't have. And Judi Dench plays Queen Elizabeth I. Need I say more?

The Duchess

The Duchess is not only renowned for its sumptuous costume design, but also its setting in some of the most beautiful parts of Eng-



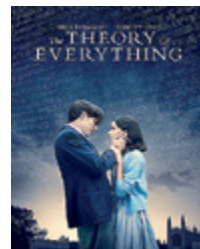
land. The heartbreaking story of 18th-century English aristocrat Georgiana Cavendish, the Duchess of Devonshire, the film is set against the backdrop of Chatsworth House, one of England's most famous stately homes, and Bath, one of its prettiest cities.

Atonement

Another heart-breaking story, Atonement follows the lives of a cast of characters scarred by an event that takes place early in the film (I won't spoil it for you). The setting moves from place to place, starting at the idyllic Tallis family estate in southeast England and moving from there to France and then London. The movie is beautifully done, and does justice to Ian McEwan's excellent novel.

The Theory of Everything

The Theory of Everything tells the story of physicist Stephen Hawking's life in



a romantic drama set at Cambridge University in the 1960s. He falls in love with another student there, and scenes of their budding relationship are filmed at locations in and around the university.

These include St John's College, Queen's Green, The New Court lawn, and Kitchen Bridge. The film goes on to tell of their marriage and is filmed throughout the UK, but the Cambridge scenes are my favourites. Who wouldn't fall in love in a place that beautiful?

Far from the Madding Crowd

Back to books-turned-films, the 2015 version of Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd always makes me want to go straight to the English countryside and commune with the sheep.

Starring Carey Mulligan (and lots of sheep), it tells a love story on a slow burn throughout the lives of two characters with intertwined destinies. While the novel was set in Hardy's fictional Wessex, the movie was filmed in West Dorset locations like Sherborne, West Bay, Mapperton House, and Forde Abbey.



Calendar Girls

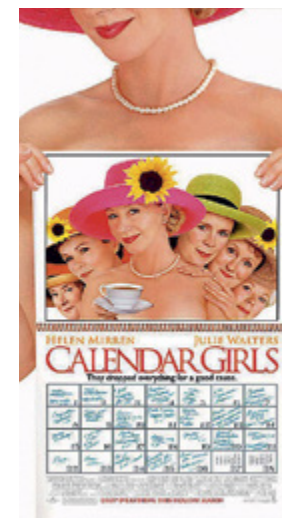
Calendar Girls has to be one of the funniest British films I've seen. Set in Yorkshire, the movie is based on the true story of a group of women who pose nude for a charity calendar.

Many scenes were shot in and around Kettlewell, a village in North Yorkshire, and more were filmed in places like Coniston, Settle, Malham, Skipton, and even London. If you want a laugh, this film is the one to watch.

Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves

I loved the Disney version of Robin Hood when I was little, and when Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves came out I had to see it. This dramatic interpretation of the legendary English hero who stole from the rich and gave to the poor was set in and around Nottingham, although the movie was filmed everywhere from Wardour Castle in Wiltshire (which stood in for Locksley Castle) to Hulne Priory in Northumberland (which stood in for Maid Marian's manor).

Sherwood Forest was shot in multiple locations, including Burnham Beeches in Buckinghamshire, Aysgarth Falls in Yorkshire, and Hardraw Force in North Yorkshire. There were even scenes shot



in France (but we'll ignore those).

Emma

Back to Jane Austen, Emma is the story of a big fish in a little pond who plays matchmaker one too many times. While Austen's novel is set in Surrey, the film starring Gwyneth Paltrow was filmed in diverse locations across the south of England.

Scenes of home life and interiors were shot everywhere from Claydon House in Buckinghamshire to Syon House near London and Stratfield Saye in Hampshire. The Surrey village where Emma gets up to her shenanigans was filmed in Evershot in Dorset, and every time I see it I breathe a nostalgic sigh for the countryside.

Jane Eyre

Jane Austen can't have all the fame, even if she shares a first name with another famous novel that has been made into numerous British films over the years. In fact, there have been almost 20 films based on Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre over the last century.

The book, which tells the love story between humble Jane and mysterious Mr. Rochester, is set in the north of England, where Brontë lived. Films have used locations as diverse as Chatsworth House,

Haddon Hall, and Froggatt village in the Peak District, and Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire, for their portrayals of places like Mr. Rochester's house.

Billy Elliot

Also set in the north of England, Billy Elliot tells the story of an 11-year-old coal miner's son who stumbles upon a ballet class and unexpectedly becomes a dancer. Much of the film was shot on location in Easington Village in County Durham, and the rest was shot around the northeast in a range of industrial settings.

Despite the often uninspiring locations, the story itself offers unbounded inspiration as Billy overcomes all obstacles in his journey to become a star of the stage.



Pride & Prejudice

I can't help ending with Jane Austen. There have been many versions of Pride & Prejudice over the years, and the 2005 version starring Keira Knightley is perhaps the one freshest in people's minds.

It was filmed at stunning locations like Chatsworth House in Derbyshire and Wilton House in Salisbury, both of which stood in for Mr. Darcy's Pemberley (the gift shop at Chatsworth House even has the fake bust of Mr. Darcy from the film on display).

Elsewhere in England, Groombridge Place, a moated manor house in Kent, stood in for the Bennets' house, Longbourn. Regardless of where the screen adaptations were filmed, the story remains one of the greatest love stories in English history.

ENGLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRETS: 14 UNDISCOVERED PLACES TO ENJOY

When you think of England, what do you imagine? The pageant and ceremony of London? The rolling countryside and the honeyed stone villages of the Cotswolds? Cathedral cities and historic sites? The urban buzz of Birmingham, Manchester and beyond? I've got great news for you. If you've already experienced all these fabulous places, I'm opening up my book of the best lesser known spots to encourage you to see more of England. Here you'll find wild moors, fascinating small towns with lots to do, cities with an unexpected past and some of the most beautiful villages in England. Let me show you my favourite undiscovered places in England.

Settle: Nestling in the Yorkshire Dales

The official website of the Yorkshire Dales National Park states that the Dales "has many moods". That's entirely true, and there's a savage beauty in the often-isolated communities and

countryside of the Dales. The market town of Settle, lying on the edge of that savage beauty, is a serene introduction. The very isolation of the Dales means that Settle was originally served by pack horse trails. It grew in importance because of the wool trade and the creation of mills nearby.

In the Square here, you'll find lots of family-owned businesses. There's a Folly, hosting a museum, and the Gallery On The Green, thought to be the smallest art gallery in the world. Nearby you'll find caves where pre-

historic finds were discovered. You can explore Malham and Castlebergh limestone crag.

Settle is also the start of one of the great railway journeys. The line running from Settle to Carlisle passes through spectacular countryside and includes the highest station in England. Take the train to access all kinds of walks in the Dales and also to appreciate the beauty of Ribbleshead Viaduct, a spectacular construction that crosses the valley not long after you leave Settle.



Tintagel: Legends of King Arthur in Cornwall

Tintagel, the village on a mountain, is set on Cornwall's Atlantic coast. If the name seems familiar, that's because this is the place linked with legends of King

Arthur, Excalibur and Merlin. What I can also tell you is that Tintagel is wild, raw and ready to inspire all kinds of legendary dreams.

Arthurian legend recounts that Gorlois, Duke of Cornwall, left his wife Igraine in Tintagel while he went to war. Merlin disguised Luther Pendragon as Gorlois, enabling him to impregnate Igraine with the young King Arthur. Today you'll find plenty to explore including the castle, and the headland which is also the site of an early Celtic monastery. This was a wealthy place with plenty of examples of high value goods traded.

You can visit King Arthur's Hall at Trevena, with its 73 stained glass windows telling the tales of Arthurian legend. There's also the Camelot Castle Hotel, complete with a central entrance tower and a Great Hall designed as a replica of the Winchester Round Table. The coastline has a unique turquoise hue resulting from deposits of copper in the water. Don't

forget to check out the beaches at Trebarwith Strand and Bossiney Haven.

Coventry: Medieval City of Peace and Reconciliation

On the route between Birmingham and London, Coventry's a modestly sized city with a surprisingly deep history. Once home to Lady Godiva, one of the first social campaigners and said to have ridden naked through the streets to protest at rent rises, Coventry has a medieval heart



that is both beautiful and unexpected.

You may have heard of Spon Street and its Tudor timbered buildings. But there is way more to explore. Go wandering around by the cathedral and you'll find the ruins of St Mary's Benedictine Priory, plus the lovely juttied Tudor houses of

Lychgate Cottages which date back to 1414. Then there's St Mary's Guildhall, a building so splendid you half expect to encounter a medieval resident paying some taxes in the Council Room, or music emerging from the Mistrels' Gallery. Don't forget to look up at the beautiful ceiling and stained glass.

Then there's Coventry Cathedral. This is a building with a poignant history, and with beauty that grew from devastation. After the city was bombed in the war, architect Sir Basil Spence drew up plans for a building that incorporated a beautiful new space while incorporating the ruins of the bombed cathedral. Open to the sky, the older part of the cathedral holds art works focused on the message of peace and reconciliation that the city promotes. You can climb the 180 steps of the old tower to see the city from on high.

Coventry's not all about its distant past. FarGo Village, on Far Gosford Street, is a collection of small and arty businesses, plus vibrant cafes and bars. Stop off here for everything from a new selection of reads to scooters, a brewery visit and a vegan brownie. You should also call in at the 2 Tone Village, which pays homage to Coventry's contribution to the music scene. As a tribute to the city's fine contribution to travel, don't miss the Transport Museum. Covering the city's role as a bicycle and car manufacturer par excellence, you can see Thrust 2, some mighty Triumphs



such as the Spitfire and contemplate the correct attire for lady cyclists: knickerbockers, of course.

Vale of White Horse: A Quieter Version of the Cotswolds

If you've been seduced by the honeyed stone villages of the Cotswolds, you may have noticed that it can get a little busy there. Step up to the Oxfordshire border, and take some time to explore the Vale of White Horse instead. Named after the Uffington White Horse, a stylised chalk figure carved into the hills, the Vale offers you a collection of small towns and villages. They are absolutely charming, although different in character to the Cotswolds, and offer you a quintessentially English experience.

There's a beautiful walk that takes in the Uffington White Horse. Nearby you'll find Dragon Hill, a mound without vegetation. It's said to be where St George slayed the dragon, the beast's blood making the mound barren forever. You can also take in Wayland's Smithy, a Neolithic chieftain burial tomb. The invisible smith is said to have shod horses for payment. Up here you're on the Ridgeway, said to be the oldest road in Europe, and possibly 5,000 years old.

The towns are equally fascinating. We loved Faringdon, a Fairtrade Town. There's a small visitor centre full of locally produced crafts, and a lovely collection of independent shops. You can



find public artworks of hares here, part of the Costwolds AONB Hare Trail.

Then there are the stories of Faringdon's eccentrics. Spot a diver's helmet as part of a bench? That's to mark a bet extended to Salvador Dali; the penalty for losing was to walk into the town in a full diving suit. You can find out more about Lord Berners, who extended the bet, at Faringdon Folly. If you've never seen an English folly, this one's a treat. Follow the tree lined path uphill, and you'll come into an open space surrounding the tall folly itself, complete with a sign pleading that you not feed the giraffes. We didn't spot any long-necked beasts, but there was a hare at the edge of the woods.

Head on to Abingdon-on-Thames and you'll find the mighty river itself. You can hire a boat, walk the Thames Path or simply enjoy lunch or dinner overlooking the river. If you visit on high days or holidays, be careful to dodge a bun or two. They are thrown from the County Hall on celebratory occasions, and you can see a fine collection of previously thrown buns there. A coffee shop known as the Throwing Buns is just opposite, so you might be able to buy one if there are none being thrown when you visit.

Devon's Hartland Peninsula – Small Villages and Wild Smug- glers' Coast

Beyond the towns of Barnstaple and Bideford, North Devon is a collection of small villages and hamlets at the coast. One of the least travelled and wildest spots I've found is the Hartland Peninsula. Here you're talking small lanes with big hedgerows and occasional passing places. Hartland itself is a small and pretty village with a few shops and a cafe (with an outside small table for small guests and their small



bears). Drive on a little further and you'll reach the lighthouse, where you can stop off to walk a while and admire the views.

Then head on down to Hartland Quay. From the road, you'll take a steep lane full of hairpin bends. Then suddenly the view of the sea opens out before you. This is the wild coast, full of tales of shipwrecks and smugglers. There's a small hotel here, with accommodation, a pub, information about the Quay and a shop selling ice creams, momentos and snacks. Then you're on the Quay itself. The cliff formations here are stunning, and quite frankly vertiginous. You can well imagine how ships wrecked here. Take a walk on the beach among the rocks and rockpools. Bring your binoculars to see the shipping and distant views of Lundy Island. And don't forget to visit out of season too; wrap up for a wild adventure.

The Forest of Bowland: From Idyllic Valleys to Wild Moors in Lancashire

If you head south from the city of Lancaster, past the university campus and the village of Galgate, you'll spot a turning to the left to enter the Forest of Bowland. If you've never been here before, you're in for a treat. This is a place of big open spaces and massive contrasts, with a few scattered hamlets. You start off in the river valley.



Here you'll meet sheep safely grazing. There are woods and places to stop to investigate the river, and to appreciate the beauty of the countryside.

Then you start to climb. There's a reservoir, shining and still, and waterfalls full of thundering power. At times the road is so narrow, you'll feel that you are clinging to the hillside. Climb further and the scenery turns to stark moorland with heather and gorse. Pull over, and you might well be the only person within miles, save for the inhabitants of the one farm you can see on the horizon. Be prepared to meet stray sheep on the road, scampering and curious. Or, as we also did, a collection of cows, escaped from their field and looking for adventure.

This is one of the places where there is so little light, you can see the stars and planets beautifully at night. So, wrap up warm and consider making this a stargazing spot. On this small crowded island, it's good to find beautiful places where you can be truly alone.

Hack Green: The Secret Nuclear Bunker

England is renowned for its eccentricity, and this list needs to contain at least one oddity in its suggestions of secret spots to visit. And this is a



secret – as in not well known – and secret – as in hidden – spot, so you get double your secrets here.

Deep in rural Cheshire, you'll find signs pointing to Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker. Despite my jollity above, this can be a saddening visit, as it comprises one of the spots designed to provide a safe place for government to operate during the outbreak of nuclear war. Formerly a military listening post, Hack Green was converted to a bunker in order to help the UK's security during the cold war.

Arrive at Hack Green, and you'll find a building largely built into a grassy mound. You enter through the facility's canteen, and then a self-guided tour will take you through all the parts of the bunker, from decontamination rooms to a hospital, and the place where government would have broadcast to the nation in the event of nuclear war.

Hack Green is a mass of contradictions. It has a trail for younger visitors to spot secret spy mice. You'll also find some lovely unexpected moments, like the chance to spot Goulash the (real) bunker cat, and you're reminded not to feed him. The canteen and refreshment area tell you what to do – as in get under your table – in case of attack. But the threat it served to counter is visceral and real, and presented to you unsanitised. It's a sobering visit, and a fascinating insight into what life could have been for those serving their country in its operational lifetime.

Crosby Beach: Art Shaped by the Tides

A mere twenty minutes or so by train from Liverpool, itself well worth your time, you'll find Crosby. Originally a Viking settlement, the town is mentioned in

the Domesday Book. It's made up of a string of settlements along the Irish Sea, including Great Crosby, Little Crosby, Waterloo and Blundellsands.

In the nineteenth century, the first Lord of the Admiralty described the sea views as being second only to those in the Bay of Naples. In fact, you can see a lot of sea captain's houses scattered along the beachfront at Crosby, those mariners having been seduced by the beauty of the coast. Today there are some industrial elements to that beauty – from passing cargo ships to wind turbines – but the romance of the sea lingers.

That may be why the beach is the setting for an art installation. If you've ever heard of Antony Gormley's Iron



Men, they're here, in an installation called Another Place. Each of the 100 men is cast, life size from the artist's body. And there are many of them, some almost submerged, others paddling, and some untouched by the waves. Get up close, and you'll see that sea life has taken over, with barnacles and seaweed and some erosion. Sometimes you'll find them dressed up; we've spotted one in a bikini and sarong.

Don't forget to travel further up the coast to Formby, where you'll find sand dunes backed by pine woods, ponds and lakes. Here too you'll find one of the few red squirrel colonies in England.

Whitby: Bram Stoker's Inspiration for Dracula

Tucked in at the edge of the North York Moors National Park, Whitby's a place that rewards the journey to one of the more remote undiscovered



places in England. Still a working port, shipping to Europe and Scandinavia, this seaside town has a fine tradition of seafaring. Captain Cook learned his trade here.

Whitby has many good reasons to attract visitors. You've got the heritage coastline, the aforementioned moors and also the town's mining of jet which was started by the Romans. Up on the East Cliff, dramatically ruined Whitby Abbey casts shadows and stark shapes against the skyline. It was home to Caedmon, the earliest recognised English poet. The Anglo-Saxon Abbey was a double monastery, accommodating both men and women.

Then there's Dracula. Whitby is the setting, and many local folklore events appear in the novel, including the sinking of the Russian ship Dmitri. Even the name Dracula was found by Bram Stoker in the old town library. In fact if you're looking for literary inspiration here you'll find it via Charles Dickens who was a visitor, and Wilkie Collins who stayed here with the woman who became *The Woman In White*. Add Mary Linskill, G.P. Taylor's *Shadowmancer* and A.S. Byatt's *Possession* and you can see you might need a trusty pen and notepad when you visit.

Appledore: Maritime History, Art and Literature in a Small Devon Village

Take the coast road to North Devon from the M5, and you'll arrive at



the coastal town of Barnstaple. Appledore is just a short drive further, and here you'll find a small and perfectly formed village that has attractions way beyond anything you could imagine of such a small spot.

Originally a shipbuilding port situated on the estuary, Appledore made

ships to send to the New World. Beside its docks, you can find lists of the original vessels, the first recording the names of local places before branching out into more obscure influences. Opposite is the Maritime Museum, filled with tales of smuggling, wrecks, bravery and even a little haunting.

Wander on down to the Quay, and you'll encounter more of Appledore's charms. There's a fine deli, plenty of restaurants and unique shops and galleries lining the narrow lanes, laced with brightly coloured houses and even more brightly coloured door knockers. You'll find plenty of fresh seafood newly landed daily, and space for crabbing on the harbour steps. Visit in September, and you'll be able to enjoy the internationally renowned Book Festival, but remember to book early.

Shaftesbury: Hilltops and Snowdrops

Deep in Dorset, Thomas Hardy's country, you'll find the pretty small town of Shaftesbury. I once had the pleasure of spending a summer house-sitting here, and it remains a great memory of life spent at a slower and beautiful pace.

Overlooking Blackmore Vale, you can see as far as Glastonbury Tor from the top of the town. Dorset's only hill-top town is legendary for the steepness of its roads. Play the adagio from Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, and Brits of a certain age will remember an advert showing a small boy talking about bread delivery (one of Ridley Scott's early works). The setting for the advert was Gold Hill, still every bit as charming with its cobbles and thatched cottages, although not somewhere you really want to climb with two full bags of heavy groceries.

The now ruined abbey was once the wealthiest Benedictine nunnery in England. Indeed, there were two mints in the town, making its own currency. The Abbey Museum on the site has a herb garden and a medieval orchard. Shaftesbury was a major centre of pilgrimage, and King Canute died here. Its wealth continued to build through cloth, button making and brewing. Nearby Duncliffe Hill has a nature reserve on a conical mound that can be seen for miles. And the snowdrops? Shaftesbury has a carefully curated



collection of many different varieties. Visit in February to see the delicate while flowers at their best.

Bakewell: Legendary Tarts and The Peak District

Wander through the aisles of any British supermarket, and you're likely to find a box of Bakewell Tarts. Rich with almond frangipane and cherry jam, the tarts were created in Bakewell as a result of a fortunate culinary mishap. You can still find plenty of lovely



examples to try. There's also its counterpart, the original Bakewell Pudding, made with a puffy crust and a sweet cousin of the Yorkshire Pudding. You can fill your (walking) boots at three bakers in the town which are stuffed with varieties of both delicacies.

But aside from tarts and puddings, Bakewell is well worth your time. It nestles up to the River Wye, giving a beautiful backdrop and access to plenty of Peak District walks. Visit on a Monday to enjoy the market. The five arched bridge over the River Wye is deservedly one of the Peak District's most famous landmarks. The end of July is a great time to visit to see the well dressing in the town. Chatsworth House, Haddon Hall and Crich Tramway Village are nearby as is Arkwright's Mill for shopping. If you've a head for heights, don't forget the cable car up Masson Hill to the Heights of Abraham.

Kingswood Junction: Heritage Waterways

If you like some heritage mixed in with beautiful countryside, then you should take time to explore England's canal system. Everything here is seen in detail at a slower pace: four miles an hour for you and the narrowboat traffic on the waterways.

Kingswood Junction puts you in the heart of Shakespeare country where the Stratford-upon-Avon and Grand Union Canals meet. The canal towpaths here offer you all sorts of tantalising directions to explore. Or you could just loiter at the convenient pic-

nic tables and watch the canal world pass by.

This is a splendid place to watch the seasons change: hoar frost giving way to the first crocuses, then daffodils and the trees regaining their leaves. The swans begin to build their nests, the herons stand watchfully, and if you

are very lucky, you might spot a flash of turquoise from the kingfisher upstream. Then the canals ripen, their margins pregnant with blackberries, hips and elderflowers, and even the



odd wild raspberry or two. Hire a boat and see England's beauty in all its details. It's a fabulous way to enjoy time with family and friends, and if you have dogs, they'll love you forever for all those walks.

Lundy Island: In Pursuit of Puffins and Seals

There are harbours at Bideford and Ilfracombe in Devon, and from either harbour, depending on the day of the week, you can launch yourself into a truly splendid adventure. Lundy Island, named from the Norse word for puffin, is less than 20 miles away. But in many senses, it's part of another world: one of seafarers, cliffs, wild moors and harsh living.

You'll need walking boots and good outdoor clothing for the Lundy trip. Beyond the pub and houses, it's a steep walk, and although the island is small, there are times when you can be entirely alone. There's a single

pub and shop, holiday accommodation for people staying over (you can order your provisions to sail out with you if needed), and be aware that the lights go out early here, save for in the pub.

In return you get proper wild spaces. Check out puffins, sheerwaters, seals. Watch the inquisitive sheep, and take care with your footing on the way to the lighthouse. If your mind is noisy, this is the place to allow it to return to quiet. Island life is something truly exceptional and this is definitely one of the most undiscovered places in England.

Where England meets Wales along the line of Offa's Dyke, you'll find the castles and historic towns and villages of the Welsh Marches. This is a land laced with history, tales of battles, allegiances and power changing hands. Take Ludlow, described by poet John Betjeman as the finest town in England. The Princes in the Tower spent their early years at Ludlow Castle. Now it hosts events, including the magnificent annual food fair. In the town you'll find all kinds of foodie delights, including produce to make every chef swoon. The town itself is magnificent, full of Georgian and timbered buildings, and packed with independent shops. You won't be short of things to do either, as Ludlow has a packed social calendar.

Take yourself up to the Shropshire Hills, where there's a path less traveled for you to choose. There's gliding, hang-gliding and walking out of Church Stretton, known as Little Switzerland. Don't forget the fascinating and frankly odd museum called The Land of Lost Content. And the walks: the Long Mynd, the Stiperstones and Clee Hill with its stark quarries and sheep safely grazing. If you're looking for inspiration, you'll find it here.





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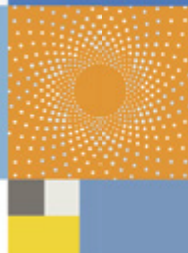


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LEGAL ADVICE

HOW BRITISH POLITICS AFFECTS IMMIGRATION LAW?

MERIAM ALTAF

It has been more than three years since the UK voted to leave the EU in a referendum. Mrs Theresa May took office in July 2016 after the country voted leave. She categorically ruled out a second referendum and, even though she did manage to reach an agreement with the EU, she could neither do it in parliament not even within her own party, which eventually led to her resignation as the Prime Minister. Since Mrs May's departure, Boris Johnson has replaced her promising major changes; in particular, new terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, focusing mainly on maintaining the current tariff-free trade agreements with the EU.

However, the real question which concerns people is what will happen to their future in terms of their immigration status? More precisely, to their jobs, families, friends, and free movement rights that felt so inherent to their condition as the national of the EU. According to the current White Paper published by the UK Government, everyone will be required to obtain permission if they want to come to the UK and work or study here.

The key difference is that there will no longer be one immigration system for non-European or International citizens, and another for EU citizens. Regardless of the outcome of Brexit, the future immigration system in the UK aims to apply the same rules to



all nationalities. Skilled migrants will be prioritized and the talent pool will be given a fair opportunity to work in the UK. The new system is still under development; however, the UK Government aims to implement it as soon as an agreement is reached between London and Brussels. This should (allegedly) happen at the end of October 2019. However, the likelihood of that date being postponed again is high.

Europeans who already live in the UK and wish to secure their status should apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to obtain either settled or pre-settled status. This should also be carefully considered by businesses that employ a majority of European workers, as their immigration status might significantly delay or even reduce the productivity of their business. Similarly, boarding schools and higher institutions should consider settled status applications for their

students, as a large number of their pupils comprise of European and International students. The family members of EU nationals are also able to join them under the rules; however, each case has to be dealt with accordingly.

There are currently two deadlines to make the applications mentioned above: first is on 30 June 2021, if the UK leaves with a deal, and the second is on 31 December 2020, if the UK leaves without a deal.

There appears to be a general consensus as to the current political events already having a dramatic impact on UK's economic sectors such as services, automotive and manufacturing, food and farming, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, research and education. The ultimate Brexit outcome is known neither by lawyers, local councils nor other organisations. Nevertheless, the certain factor is that those who consider residing, working, studying or looking for a job in the UK should secure their status as a matter of priority, regardless of the future political events.



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