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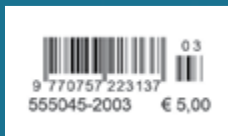
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EDITOR'S LETTER

## WOE FROM WIT



**M**arch is coming. It is spring. But is there spring without winter?

I have visited Moscow in the middle of February. The city still remained uncovered by snow, with the above-zero temperature. It was so warm in the flat, that we even switched the heating battery off. Locals wondered and joked about "Parisian" climate in Moscow...

Earlier many people grinned when mentioning climate change, global warming. Now it is less questioned, however, discussions continue. Some people accuse humans and threaten us with last climate judgment. The others affirm that climate change is

a natural event and the mother Earth had seen climatic disturbances way before humans.

These discussions are rhetorically interesting but have no sense. People go to extremes in discussions. Some people predict unavoidable disasters and climatic apocalypse, and the others oppositely promise soon to fall in temperature and describe it as a cyclic repetition.

From this point of view, population survey speaks itself. People are agitated due to catastrophism promoted by mass media, but at the same time they get helplessly confused. They say: we were educated to believe in scientific and technological progress, but it occurred to lead us to a climatic catastrophe. So, ecologists call us to get rid of achievements and come back to the roots. Again, if it's not one thing, it's another.

Just woe from wit.

**Victor Loupan**

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## DISSENTING OPINION

# WHERE DO WE START AFTER BREXIT?

*It is time to recall that British technical superpower had facilitated human development over hundreds of years*

VYACHESLAV KATAMIDZE,  
*a writer and historian.*

Festive fireworks have burned out, many families through the country celebrated Brexit with a crystal glass of Champaign, the Conservative Party leaders and “Eurosceptics” congratulated each other on their victory. Brexit antagonists console themselves with that all is not lost; they think that the European Union will show itself even under tough and very versatile conditions of saying farewell to Great Britain, so they still believe that they were right about everything. In the meantime, the fact is certain: Great Britain broke with its superstructure evolving from an economic advisory board to a weak and authoritarian European government under expulsive pains which were similar to birth throes. One thing the Brexit antagonists were unconditionally good at, was the forecast that eurobureaucrats would not avoid biting a large piece of a British pie in the end, which would assure their “dolce vita” for the long haul...

Well, Brexit became a reality, but Great Britain as a big and still reliable ship started its non-escorted floating through whitewater running in the current political and economical ocean – for the first time in almost fifty years. I have no idea about the strategy maintained by Brexit supporters, but today United Kingdom habitants remain completely unaware of the ship’s plan to overcome future storms.

I would like to explain my idea. Firstly, when Brexit was completed and eurobureaucrats had nothing to lose, they would give British negotiators a

“eurocoronary” introducing more and more requirements, cavil and technical details. Let it be, this one was not critical. But what is really critical, now they will establish rules for the British economy which will constitute “simulated combat conditions”. I suppose, we have to leave any hope to continue successful trade relations with Europe with further maintenance of advantages and benefits which may, however, remain – but only in the beginning. After that, following strengthening of eurobureaucrats, they will create as much obstacles and “tank traps” on the road of British goods and financial institutes as they can.

Based on their quality, design and preferences, many British goods leave similar European goods far behind. And they are expensive. It means, even 7–12 percent customs duties will make them non-competitive in Europe. It seems to me, the European Union has prepared a time bomb for us: it may introduce significantly higher duties attached to the most quality goods exported to European countries. It may happen gradually, but in due course of time this process will become unstoppable. And this process will boost development of production of similar goods in France, Germany, and Italy. What will happen then with our British manufacturers?

There is talk in Europe that they need to develop own large computing centers, massive trading hubs, giant logistics bases on the continent. This is not only trendy; first of all, it aims

to leave Great Britain as a superpower having successful trade relations with the whole world, far behind other European states. It looked like earlier the EU allowed us to be successful, but now it is planning to create obstacles in everything. Such steps are somehow reasonable: in a new fierce world where prosperity of different states depends on getting rid on competitors – and, among this, on conducting the info-war against them, – the European Union blessed by the USA is already doing so towards many countries. Why not to act in the same manner with the free-floating United Kingdom?

Let us take it reasonable. When leaving the EU, we facilitated establishment of its economic opponent. This is the lesser evil when compared to the country being controlled by some “bureaucratic superpower”, but it is still an evil to be overcome. The USA swear that they will support Great Britain, but American manufacturers and financial institutions completely have no interest in growing production in Britain as it may provide competition to American products. Over 75 years the USA used Great Britain as their unsinkable aircraft carrier, as a permanent participant of their global military and political actions, and as a promoter for US products on the European market. What call would a “good rich uncle in America” buy British goods and technologies on a mass scale? Not to mention that they will evidently cost more than American analogues, and they will become even more expensive due to delivery costs.

So what is to be done? Where to next?

I see only one solution: we have to seek for new markets, new partners, new foreign companies which are ready for mutual efforts and joint production. It is not easy to find them. But they exist – in Asia, Africa, Arab Middle East. Great Britain demonstrates many achievements in different fields: it created new technologies for construction of buildings and vessels, cost-effective production lines and wind turbines. In the end, it all depends on proactive approach, skills and proper choice of the methods.

Relations with Russia can also be reloaded. Up till now they were adversely affected by rhetorics originating from

nology in the United Kingdom were completely controlled by the state of affairs primarily dictated by the USA and later by the EU.

I would like to remind about the fate of British-French project Concorde following the accident which had happened to the plane being a part of the supersonic passenger fleet. Many years of investigation contributed to detailed reconstruction of the causes of this tragedy; now we know that the French cab crew made several mistakes. Stepping back from the Concorde project was a retrograde step in international and intercontinental aviation. But it was not a final step in this development. Great Britain as a manufacturer

ers would be mutually beneficial to all the parties, including such countries as Ireland or Sweden. At the last, every country strives to equip its transportation network with more innovative but less expensive commercial vehicles. It only requires intentional forward movement to peaceful cooperation in any sectors, without any preconception or NATO’s aggressive rhetorics.

To make Great Britain a stable, growing and safe country, it is insufficient to dream or talk of it. Today British politologists started talking of finding its new level in the world. It is not a wish or a target to be reached in the distant future. To ensure that we not only survive in a modern world, but also build



NATO leaders and the Democratic Party of the USA. In my opinion, the United Kingdom shall not put itself at the mercy of their political programs. Great Britain is a great country granting not only Dickens and Byron, but also Brunel, Watt and Faraday, to the world, and British technical superpower had facilitated human development over hundreds of years. It seems to be a good time to recall this, extensively apply multiple patents and inventions filed by British scientists over the recent forty years when science and tech-

of high-quality aircraft engines would have partnered with Russia to restore this project and organize a joint production of new generation Concorde, as many decades ago Russia successfully designed a similar airplane, Tu-144.

I have already mentioned that British designers and engineers could launch the production of modernized cars and develop designing of advanced models together with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Today KAMAZ is one of the best global truck manufacturers, and cooperation with British car build-

a happier future for our people, politologists and economists have to be more active and inventive, more prepared for negotiations with any country being able to assure such future as a partner.

Britain was able to do so over the centuries – under previous, more complicated and sometimes hostile conditions. Great Britain still has all chances to make this achievement again – through its more reasonable, pragmatic and moderate policy. It has everything to do so: resources, opportunities and, above all, talented people.



# SERGEY LAVROV: “RUSSIA IS NOT A DOMINANT MILITARY FORCE IN EUROPE”

*There are numerous reports in the media about preparations for the upcoming Defender-Europe 20 military exercise, due to take place this May in a number of Eastern European countries. This will be the largest US military exercise in the past 25 years. Given the considerable cooling in relations between Russia and NATO, are we witnessing the birth of a new Cold War?*

During the Cold War, there were large-scale operations aimed at expanding the armed forces in Europe, including a more substantial US presence. This included Operation Re-

turn of Forces Germany (REFORGER), when the Americans made themselves at home in Germany and now they have dozens of military installations there. Germany now has a tremendous foreign military presence, but that is NATO affairs.

Regarding the Defender-Europe 20 exercise, we would like to ask who it is that they want to defend themselves from. They say it is not intended to defend themselves from Russia but from an enemy that has a comparable military potential. In that case, it is difficult to find a target for these efforts that would have a comparable scale. If we look at the official data

(not Russia's but foreign) on defence spending and military equipment, including all types of weapons without exception, such as tanks, warplanes, attack helicopters, infantry fighting vehicles, armoured personnel carriers, warships and submarines, then we will see that NATO's European members alone, without the US potential, surpass the Russian Armed Forces by over 100 percent. I don't know where they have found a comparable enemy.

Of course, Russia is not a dominant military force in Europe. NATO has this status. Although the region is already filled to overflowing with



Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov

military installations, and although NATO's eastward expansion has already created serious problems in the area of strategic stability in Europe, NATO continues to merge with the European Union. NATO is trying to hold joint exercises and to involve in them neutral states, such as Finland and Sweden, under the pretext of EU membership. They have invented the term Military Schengen in the context of NATO-EU military cooperation. It provides for the modernisation of all transport arteries all the way to the Alliance's eastern border in such a way that the largest military equipment would be able to move eastwards unhindered. I believe that this alone is enough to understand the danger of these games.

Preparations for the Defender-Europe 20 exercise, due to

take place in April-May 2020, were launched a long time ago. In addition to the already deployed military contingents in the region, there are plans to redeploy many thousands of units of US equipment, as well as over 20,000 US service personnel. This is formally a US military exercise, but other NATO members and partners are also invited to take part. This is an interesting aspect. I don't know the reasons for this, but it can probably be explained by the fact that the Americans find it much easier to organise and implement everything under their own plans, without abiding by any symbolic NATO discipline, although the Commander in Chief of United States Army Europe also serves as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. This exercise is to involve over 40,000 officers and soldiers. Naturally, we will respond. We cannot ignore processes that cause grave concern, but we will respond in such a way as not to create any unnecessary risks.

This is inevitable, and I hope that any reasonable military commander and politician realises this. Those who provoke such absolutely unwarranted exercises want to see re-

taliatory measures that would aggravate tensions still further. But an important point to bear in mind is that all our efforts in response to the creation of security threats with regard to Russia by NATO are take place exclusively on Russian territory. Equally, Russia keeps its nuclear weapons on its own territory, unlike the United States.

*Strategic stability matters have long been one of the pillars of Russia-US relations, and to some extent guaranteed stability around the world.*

*However, over the past years the US administration has taken steps that reversed these achievements, at least in part. In particular, the US is openly hampering the renewal of the New START. Do you believe that the situation may change after the US presidential election? Back in the days when Rex Tillerson was US Secretary of State, you had an agreement to establish a working group for resolving disputed matters. Is it working on renewing the New START?*

Let me begin with your last question. The group is working, albeit without much success. There were 12 or 13 meetings over the past years. I cannot recall the exact number. Even before Rex Tillerson, meetings of this kind consisted of a Russian representative merely listing to his US counterpart the concerns, unacceptable actions by the US administration, citing examples and handing over memos to this effect. These documents contained all the possible grievances, from the seizure of Russian diplomatic property and voluntarist cuts in the personnel of the Russian diplomatic missions, to the kidnapping of Russian nationals



Defender-Europe 20 military exercise will be the largest US military exercise in the past 25 years



Viktor But, Konstantin Yaroshenko, Roman Seleznyov and to name just a few. There were also problems related to how Russians were treated in US prisons, whether they enjoyed normal conditions, etc. The American side would promise us that they would look into these matters, at the same time advising Russia to stop interfering in US domestic affairs, arguing that everything is related, and that there is no crime without punishment. The same old story over and over again, as the saying goes.

During my trip to Washington last December, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and I agreed to give a new impetus to the Russia-US dialogue in order to achieve at least some progress. US President Donald Trump has also said that we needed to get along.

The new US Ambassador to Russia, John Sullivan, arrived in Moscow. He assured us that he wants to facilitate progress at least on some specific matters, although before that we need to put our bilateral relations back on track. The prospects for making specific steps have been quite hazy so far. We somehow managed to revive counterterrorism dialogue. This is one of the fields that should be free from any artificial barriers. Over the past years there were a couple of instances when the US passed on intelligence enabling us to prevent terrorist attacks in Russia. We have also been doing it since the Boston Marathon attack. It could seem that we have resumed contacts along these lines. When in October 2019 Washington proposed continuing consultations, we agreed on adopting a joint statement on counterterrorism as part of my visit in order to send a positive signal, showing that Russia

and the US can share the same positions and subscribe to them. But when I arrived there it turned out that they were not able to get the necessary approvals on time, or some-



*Sergey Lavrov and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo*

thing like this. Today, working with our US partners on specific matters is a challenge.

But let us go back to strategic stability. This is a matter of concern for Russia and the US, and also for the rest of the world. The very framework of the international architecture is falling apart. The INF Treaty followed in its demise that of the ABM Treaty. They rejected our proposal to introduce a moratorium on building and deploying missiles of this kind. They accuse us of deception regarding the INF Treaty, arguing that the moratorium we propose boils down to the following: we already have Iskander systems that can deliver missiles that are banned under the treaty, while the US lacks intermediate-range means of delivery. They argue that we want to maintain our intermediate-range missiles, while denying the US the possibility of building them.

We have a clear and specific answer to these allegations. In the fall of 2019, after the US withdrew from the INF Treaty, President of Russia Vladimir Putin sent a message to more than 50

heads of state and government, including the US, all NATO members, as well as other non-NATO neutral European countries, and Asia-Pacific countries (since the US also intends

to deploy intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in this part of the world as well). We have not made this message public, but I can tell you that it sets out the background of this question, stressing that there is not a single fact to back the claim made by the United States that we tested the 9M729 missile on a range prohibited by the INF Treaty. Since the US has satellite imagery, they could at least show us a single image confirming their allegations and contradicting Russia's arguments. They have no evidence of Russia violating the treaty. The US refused to attend a demonstration of a new cruise missile organised by the Russian Defence Ministry together with the Foreign Ministry in January 2019, and advised other NATO countries against attending. They called it just a show and a sham. This is not a proper way for transacting serious business. If you want to prove that it was a sham, just come here and prove it. During the event, participants could ask questions and provide comments. Russian representatives answered questions for

two hours during the briefing. However, out of all the NATO members only Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey were represented. But they lack the kind of expertise the US has on these matters. The presence of US experts at the demonstration would have helped them better understand what they are dealing with.

President Vladimir Putin's message said: we suggest that the US and its allies join our moratorium on the deployment of medium and smaller-range missiles, including the creation of a possible verification mechanism. They are attempting to disregard this altogether, avoiding any mention of it as a matter of principle. They tell us: no, you are cheating, you do have missiles of this sort, they are on alert duty, they were developed long ago and deployed in violation of the treaty that was in force at that time. As for the moratorium-cum-verification proposal, they are attempting to drown it in verbiage. Only President of France Emmanuel Macron said in public that he still had problems with regard to how Russia had implemented the treaty, but he was ready to re-



*Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin*

spond to President Putin's message. All other NATO members (obviously, on orders from Washington) are keeping mum.

The Americans have plans to deploy medium and shorter-range missiles in the Asia Pacific Region. In this context, Japan and South Korea are mentioned. Both countries have declared that they have no intention of allowing the deployment of these missiles. But if the Americans are keen to deploy the missiles there, I do not think that this is impossible. Some exotic mid-Pacific islands are also mentioned. As is clear – and they are not concealing it – these measures are aimed at containing China. But the geographic distances are such that, if the US medium and shorter-range missiles are deployed at those points, much of Russia's territory will be exposed to an attack, while in case of Japan or [South] Korea, the entire Russian territory all the way to the Urals will be covered. Of course, we will have to respond. This is why we have been explaining in very concrete terms to the ASEAN and APR countries, including Japan and South Korea, what risks these "games" are fraught with.

As for the New START Treaty, we have repeatedly proposed its extension. President Vladimir Putin told

when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was in Sochi, President Putin drew his attention to this fact as well.

The Americans are constantly trying to impose on us an option involving China's accession to the debate on the medium and shorter-range missiles as well as the New START Treaty. But China has repeatedly stated in public that it will not join these talks because the structure of its nuclear forces is radically different from that of Russia and the United States. In terms of numbers, these forces are also a far cry from the level where China would be ready to talk of some balance. If China suddenly changes its mind, we will be pleased to participate in multilateral talks. But we will not try to convince China. If the Americans are quite sure that it makes no sense to take any further steps on the New START Treaty without China, let them get down to business on this all on their own. We, for our part, believe that it does make sense to extend the New START that will expire in one year's time. If we fail to do this, there will be no such agreement after February 5, 2021.

Even if a multilateral process gets under way, it will be utterly protracted. There are no talks on such a serious theme that could be concluded in just a few months. Therefore, we ought to have a safety net in an extended New START Treaty even from the reputational and political point of view: no one should accuse Russia and the United States of letting a legally binding instrument in the area of strategic stability collapse. We have told the Americans as much. They are still silent. Are they worried that we might put forward some preconditions to the extension of the treaty? Nothing of the kind! President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly made public statements to the effect that we suggest extending the New START Treaty without preconditions. But the Americans would respond with media plants to the effect that China should join the agreement.

*rusemb.org.uk*



# RUSSIAN-BRITISH ROYAL RELATIONS THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY

ALEXANDRA GUZEVA

The notorious Ivan the Terrible almost married Elizabeth I, but things got complicated. Here's our story about who married whom, and who's related to whom in the British and Russian royal families.

Most history buffs know that a close friendship between England and Russia started in the 16th century when an English delegation led by Sir Richard Chancellor, who was in search of a route to India, landed in the north of Russia. That was how trade links between the two countries began. The Old English Court, which is a building near the Kremlin that once served as the premises of the Muscovy Company, still stands (and now is a museum).

While the above is the story that most people know. Russia Beyond can reveal that, in fact, relations between the two countries date to the 11th century.

## 1 Grand Prince Vladimir Monomakh and Gytha of Wessex

Gytha, the daughter of the last Anglo-Saxon king, Harold Godwinson, fled to Continental Europe after her father was killed in battle, and his dynasty de facto came to an end. In 1074, her uncle, the King of Denmark, married her to Prince Vladimir Monomakh. The future Grand Prince



until Ivan's death. (She then continued to correspond with his son, Tsar Feodor I, from 1584–1597). By and large, they discussed the two countries' trade affairs and problems encountered by merchants.

Some "secret affairs of great importance" were also mentioned in their correspond-

ence of Kievan Rus and the English princess had five children.

So, Gytha can be regarded, for example, as the ancestor of the great Alexander Nevsky. There is also a legend that she was the mother of Yuri Dolgorukiy, the founder of Moscow, but that's not true – he was born to Vladimir Monomakh's second wife.



ence, and that has allowed historians to assume that Ivan, through mediators, proposed marriage to Elizabeth, but that she must have turned him down. There's even a legend that the Queen was sent a portrait of the Tsar but didn't like it. By the way, just like Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, Ivan the Terrible had numerous wives; although, admittedly, he didn't execute them, but confined them to a convent.

## 2 Ivan the Terrible and Elizabeth I

The unapproachable and distant Queen was the only woman with whom the formidable Tsar corresponded. Their epistolary friendship continued for 22 years (1561–1583),

## 3 Peter I and William III

The first Emperor of Russia arrived in England in 1698 at William's personal invitation. As part of his "tour" of Europe, Peter had already learned the craft of shipbuilding from the most skilled masters in Holland, and observed how hospitals, schools and different factories functioned and



how windmills worked.

In England, Peter continued to learn shipbuilding and studied naval affairs. So, it can be said that Russia is partly indebted to England for some of Peter's famous innovations. From that trip there also remains a famous portrait of the Tsar by Godfrey Kneller.

## 4 Grand Duchess Maria and Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh

Emperor Alexander II married his beloved daughter, Maria, to Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. A row broke out in London when the loving Russian father demanded that Maria be addressed at court as "Your Imperial Highness," because she acquired this title at birth. Moreover, both Alexander II and Maria deeply resented

the fact that her position at court was inferior to that of the daughter of the King of Denmark – the spouse of Victoria's first son, Albert (the future King Edward VII).

Queen Victoria was enraged because by marriage Maria was supposed to have the title "Your Royal Highness," but she gave in and the Russian Duchess was called "Her Imperial and Royal Highness." A bit long-winded, but fair. Still, Maria failed to gain precedence over Albert's spouse.

## 5 Nicholas II and George V

These first cousins looked more like twins. Their facial resemblance was striking. The future British monarch was the grandson of the



"Grandmother of Europe," Queen Victoria, through her son, Prince Albert (the future Edward VII) and the Princess of Denmark mentioned in the previous chapter. The sister of the Princess of Denmark was Maria Feodorovna, consort of Emperor Alexander III and mother of Nicholas II.

Nicholas had several top British honors bestowed on him – Queen Victoria proclaimed him Knight of the Garter, King Edward VII awarded his nephew the title of Honorary Admiral of the British Navy, and at the height of World War I his cousin George dubbed Nicholas Field Marshal of the British Army.

## 6 Nicholas II and Alix

The spouse of Nicholas II, Alexandra Feodorovna, Princess Alix of Hesse and by Rhine, was at the same time yet another granddaughter of Queen Victoria – i.e. another first cousin of George V. She was the daughter of Alice, Victoria's second daughter.

Nicholas and Alexandra met in Russia when the young princess attended the wedding of her elder sister, Ella, and Grand Duke Sergei, Nicholas's uncle. The future emperor was meant to marry a different woman but he liked Alix, and her sister helped the young lovers to correspond. Nicholas' father, Alexander III, was in ill health, and he decided not to delay and blessed the marriage.

The young couple married hastily after the Emperor's death, raising eyebrows at court. On the day of their wedding, the Khodynka disaster occurred – thousands of people died in a stampede for free trinkets.

Nicholas, Alexandra and all their children died at the hands of Bolshevik executioners. Despite their family connections, George V didn't give asylum to his cousins after the 1917 October Revolution.





# THE BEST FOOD FESTIVALS IN THE UK IN 2020

Festivals are great, but food festivals are better. There's nothing wrong with planning a meal this far in advance – this is our pick of the best food festivals to book for the year.

## March

### The British Pie Awards March 4

Sponsored by the Melton Mowbray Pork Pie Association, the festival celebrates the heritage of the British pie, promotes regional specialties, supports British produce and recognises the craft of bakers, butchers and other producers. Please note this event is not open to the public, however pie makers are very welcome to observe the judging. Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England. [britishpieawards.co.uk](http://britishpieawards.co.uk)

### Essex Vegan Festival March 14

80+ fantastic stalls, world food caterers, exciting cookery demos, inspirational talks, interactive workshops, yoga and children's activities running throughout the day at Colchester Charter Hall from 10.30am – 4.30pm. [veganeventsuk.co.uk](http://veganeventsuk.co.uk)

## April

### London Coffee Festival 2–5 April

The coffee addicts of London will gather at Brick Lane's Old Truman Brewery to sip the best artisan blends, learn the science behind their caffeine-friendly taste buds and be instructed in how to brew the perfect cup. [londoncoffeefestival.com](http://londoncoffeefestival.com)

### East Anglian Gamre and Country Faire, Norfolk 25–26 April

You'll find everything country-related here, from falconry to sheep shearing, clay pigeon shooting and even horse-whispering displays. [ukgamefair.co.uk](http://ukgamefair.co.uk)

### British Asparagus Festival, Worcestershire 23 April – 21 June

Celebrations at the official start of the asparagus season include: exhibitions depicting the history of the vegetable in the Vale of Evesham; a gardening 'question time'; displays and cooking demonstrations; and spear throwing. The most high-profile event at the festival is The Great Asparagus Run, where locals, well, run with asparagus. [britishasparagusfestival.org](http://britishasparagusfestival.org)

## May

### Watercress Festival, Hampshire 17 May

Arlesford's street party has jazz musicians and Morris-dancers performing while the 'Watercress King and Queen' give out the first of the season's watercress harvest to festival-goers. There's also a huge food market in the town centre. [watercress-festival.org](http://watercress-festival.org)



### Cromer & Sheringham Lobster Festival, Norfolk 16–17 May

Two rival fishing towns go head-to-head at this three-day event, with celebrity and local chefs cooking their favourite lobster and crab recipes. The whole family can take part in the World Pier Crabbing Championships. [crabandlobsterfestival.co.uk](http://crabandlobsterfestival.co.uk)

### English Wine and Food Festival 30–31 May

Celebrations for English Wine Week take place all over the south of England. To find out about tastings, food matching and vineyard visits in your area, visit [englishwineproducers.co.uk](http://englishwineproducers.co.uk)

## June

### Cheltenham Food and Drink festival 19–21 June

Situated in the city's pretty Montpellier Gardens, the festival includes talks on a range of topics, from everyday essentials such as organic olive oil to more niche subject matter like beekeeping. [cheltenham-food-festival.garden-events.com](http://cheltenham-food-festival.garden-events.com)

### Taste of London 17–21 June

Taste of London, which takes place in Regent's Park, gives an alfresco taster of the capital's top restaurants. The Secret Garden is the place to go for exclusive mini-masterclasses and Q&A sessions with world-class chefs. [taste-festivals.com/London](http://taste-festivals.com/London)



## July

### Nyetimber Dorset Seafood Festival 11–12 July

The Dorset Seafood Festival is the UK's biggest celebration of seafood, and is as much about encouraging people to try different species of fish as it is about gorging on the fresh-out-of-the-water oysters and crab that we're all familiar with. [dorsetseafood.co.uk](http://dorsetseafood.co.uk)

### International Cheese Show, Nantwich 29 July

The biggest cheese show in the world showcases 5,500 cheeses from 24 countries across the globe; each year is bigger and better than the last. [internationalcheeseawards.co.uk](http://internationalcheeseawards.co.uk)

## August

### The Big Feastival, Oxfordshire 28–30 August

Kricket's Will Bowlby and French chef Raymond Blanc are just some

of the names previously involved at the flavour-packed festival of food, live music and crafty workshops. The 2020 line-up is still to be announced. [thebigfeastival.com](http://thebigfeastival.com)

### Great British Food Festival, Cheshire 29–31 August



Fancy yourself as the next champion of the Great British Bake Off? Then get baking for the cake-off at Newstead Abbey. There's a Kids Corner for little ones, and wine tastings, street-food stalls and cocktail-making masterclasses for the adults. [greatbritishfoodfestival.com](http://greatbritishfoodfestival.com)



**Wimbledon Park Food Festival, London**  
29–31 August

Now in its seventh year, Wimbledon Park Food Festival brings 50 street stalls selling artisan goods from cheeses to fudge, as well as cider, gin and beer as the day goes on. [fantasticbritishfoodfestivals.com](http://fantasticbritishfoodfestivals.com)

**Great British Beer Festival**  
4–8 August

Around the world in 800 beers – that’s what visitors of the Great British Beer Festival can expect. But the event – held at Olympia in West London, doesn’t merely function as ‘the biggest pub in the world’; tutored tastings and other educational experiences are scheduled to make sure attendees get the most out of their ale. [gbbf.org.uk](http://gbbf.org.uk)



**Clitheroe Food Festival**  
8 August

The team behind Clitheroe Food Festival spend a good part of their year sourcing superb local exhibitors for this event, and the result is a collection of over 100 of the region’s finest food and drink purveyors all in one place. The festival is free, but there are ticketed extras like chef demonstrations, mini wine schools, plus coffee, chocolate and cheese tastings. [clitheroefoodfestival.com](http://clitheroefoodfestival.com)

**September**

**Meatopia, London**  
4–6 September

This is the ultimate meat-lover’s fest. Brought here by Hawksmoor honcho Richard H Turner – who

originally teamed up with the late Josh Ozersky, founder of the American version of the festival – Meatopia is all about snout-to-tail cooking using local, ethically sourced meat, barbecued to perfection over wood and charcoal. Prolific chefs from around the world dream up original recipes specifically for the festival, so the dishes can’t be tried anywhere else. With more than 40 prolific chefs manning the grills, the line-up includes the Smoking Goat’s Ali Borer, Patty & Bun’s Matt Thompson and Rovi’s Neil Campbell. [meatopia.co.uk](http://meatopia.co.uk)

**Food Rocks, Dorset**  
5–6 September

Curated by Mark Hix, expect local Dorset produce to be celebrated at the Crab & Mackerel supper club, live chef demonstrations and food stalls selling everything from Dorset seafood hampers to Moroccan street food. [hixrestaurants.co.uk](http://hixrestaurants.co.uk)

**Ludlow Food Festival**  
11–13 September

Ludlow has been described as the UK’s second gourmet capital, and for its annual food festival more than 180 exhibitors set up camp in the grounds of Ludlow Castle. Foodies can sample (and score) their favourite local produce, or embark on activities like the Real Ale Trail, which involves tasting 12 of the local pubs’ best beers, and the Sausage Trail, which doesn’t need an explanation. Italy is also the inspiration behind the Magnalonga on 12 August, a food-and-drink walk over eight

miles of hills and countryside around Ludlow and the Welsh Marches. The walk was sparked by a tradition started in Ludlow’s twin town of San Pietro – with sustenance provided by local cider, beer, cheese and farmers. [ludlowfoodfestival.co.uk](http://ludlowfoodfestival.co.uk)

**Abergavenny Food Festival, Wales**  
19–20 September

Over the years, the line up at Abergavenny in Wales have included talks by top food heavyweights such as Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Jamie Oliver and Monica Galetti, as well as a hands-on class with the duo behind Honey & Co, a demonstration from Skye McAlpine, author of A Table in Venice, Dim Sum masterclasses and markets selling homemade produce, as well as street food from Dusty Knuckle and Zoe’s Ghana Kitchen. [abergavennyfoodfestival.com](http://abergavennyfoodfestival.com)

**Hastings Seafood and Wine Festival**  
19–20 September

Hastings’ historic Old Town plays host to this annual culinary celebration, for which locals turn out in droves: the combination of seafood and wine attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year. Those stopping by can expect more than 30 food stalls, guided walks, interactive talks, demonstrations and a special Jazz Breakfast. [visit1066country.com/seafood](http://visit1066country.com/seafood)

**Adleburgh Food & Drink Festival, Suffolk**  
26–27 September

Taking place next to the River Alde in Snape Maltings, this festival celebrates the quality of local food, with activities and demonstrations for adults and children. Previous talks have included Tommi Miers, Dan Doherty, Melissa Hemsley, Chetna

Makan and Maunika Gowardhan, and pop-up restaurants featuring the county’s young producers (The Cake Shop Bakery, Fen Farm Dairy, Truly Traceable) dish up a locally sourced three-course meal. More newness includes face-painting, arts-and-crafts sessions and cooking classes for the whole family at Hillfarm Meadow. [aldeburghfoodanddrink.co.uk](http://aldeburghfoodanddrink.co.uk)

**Galway Oyster Festival, Ireland**  
25–27 September

Compete in the Bollinger World Oyster Opening Championship or simply soak up the (Guinness-soaked) atmosphere at Ireland’s best-known food festival. [galwayoysterfest.com](http://galwayoysterfest.com)

**October**

**Framlingham Sausage Fest, Suffolk**  
11 October

Ah, there’s nothing like a good old sausage fest. Not the X-rated kind, you old rascal; we’re talking bangers ‘n’ mash, Cumberland, and chorizo, if you’re feeling spicy. At Framlingham Sausage Fest not only can you shop around for your favourite banger, but you can also make your own in sausage workshops. [framsausagefest.co.uk](http://framsausagefest.co.uk)

**The Llangollen Food Festival, Wales**  
17–18 October

The emphasis here is on simple home-cooking, and visitors can learn about bee-keeping and making jams, chutneys and pickles. It also coincides with

a beer festival which takes place around the town’s local pubs. [llangollenfoodfestival.com](http://llangollenfoodfestival.com)

**November**

**Clovelly Herring Festival**  
15 November

Taking place in the privately-owned village of Clovelly, Devon, this festival showcases herring specialities, with the sound of traditional shanty singers and promise of local beer and cider. [clovelly.co.uk](http://clovelly.co.uk)

**December**

**Padstow Christmas Festival**  
3–6 December

Watch the likes of Rick Stein, Paul Ainsworth and Nathan Outlaw cook up a storm, explore the market and – if you want to shed some of those extra mince pies – take part in Santa’s fun run. Don’t miss the fireworks display. [padstowchristmasfestival.co.uk](http://padstowchristmasfestival.co.uk)





# 10 CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH WRITERS YOU NEED TO KNOW

HELENA FORNELLS

With writers such as Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns, Scotland is a country with a rich literary tradition. Although Scottish works have been classified under the category of English literature for a long time, the Scots are proving Scottish literature can stand as a category of its own. In the past few decades Scottish writers have produced many remarkable works, establishing a vibrant literary scene. Here's a list of 10 writers that represent the richness of contemporary Scottish literature.

## Alasdair Gray

Alasdair Gray's novel *Lanark* (1981) is not only one of the most important Scottish novels of the 20th century but it has also been widely praised outside of Scotland. The novel is set partly in Glasgow and partly in a dystopian, surrealist version of the city. With its playful style and postmodern elements, the novel mixes realism with science fiction and fantasy, exploring

personal and political issues in both serious and humorous ways. Gray has written several acclaimed novels and collections of short stories and poetry.

He often engages with Scottish politics and wider political issues in his works, and his books are beautifully decorated by his own illustrations.



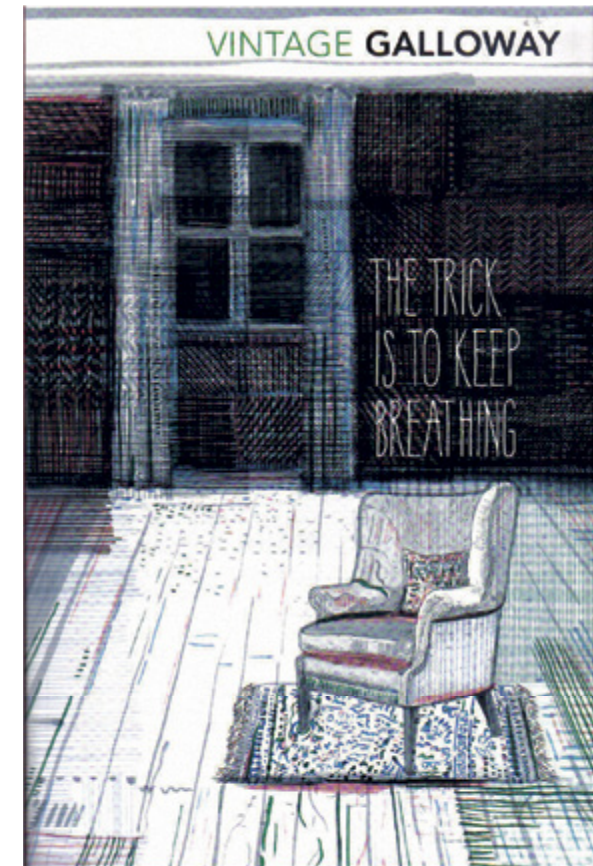
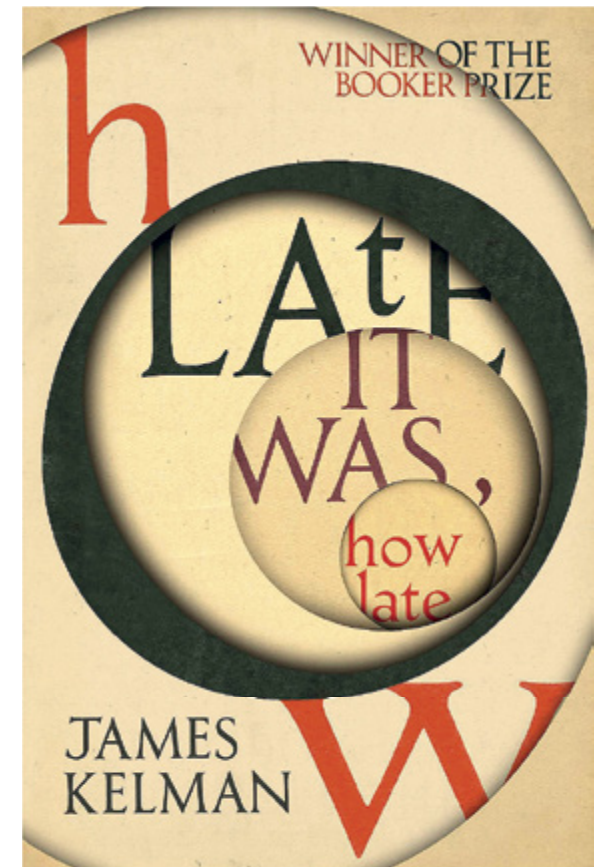
## James Kelman

Winner of the 1994 Man Booker Prize with *How Late it Was, How Late*, James Kelman brought literature written in colloquial Glaswegian dialect to international attention. The prize win caused controversy due to the difficulty of some of the passages and the constant use of bad language. In most of his works, Kelman gives a voice to Glaswegian working class individuals and communities, and is critical of the effects of neoliberalism, capitalism and globalisation. However, his work is as remarkable for his unique style and creative use of postmodern tech-

niques, as well as for its politically engaged contents.

## Janice Galloway

Janice Galloway's first novel, *The Trick is to Keep Breathing* (1989), was widely acclaimed and is now regarded as a Scottish contemporary classic. Written in the form of a diary, the novel follows a school teacher who falls into depression after the death of her lover. Galloway's work is notable for giving a voice to the experience of working-class women, and like Kelman and Gray, she is representative of Scottish postmodern-



ism. Aside from novels and short stories she has also collaboratively written an opera, two memoirs, and three cross-discipline works with the sculptor Anne Bevan.

## Ali Smith

Winner of the 2015 Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction and Costa Novel Award with her novel *How to Be Both* (2014), Ali Smith has been showing her unique creativity for years with her many acclaimed short story collections and novels. Unconventional both in theme and style, her works are sensitive, thought-





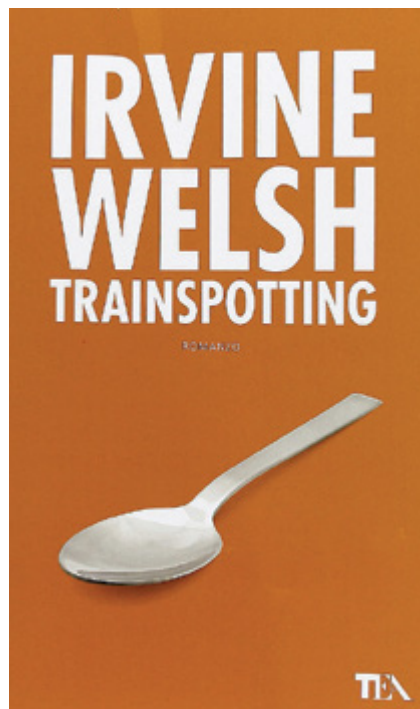
## Ali Smith how to be both

"Playfully brilliant. . . Delightful. . . Incredibly touching."  
—The Washington Post

ful and playful. Ali Smith has a particular talent for expressing sexual and gender ambiguity, and her works reject gender stereotypes and conventional ideas of sexuality, relationships and love. Her last work, *Public Library and Other Stories* (2015), explores the powerful effects books have in our lives.

### Irvine Welsh

Irvine Welsh's novel *Trainspotting* (1993), later made into the hugely popular film of the same name, is an essential book in any list of best contemporary Scottish novels. *Trainspotting* is part of a movement in contemporary Scottish literature which reclaims the use of raw Scots dialect – Welsh transcribes his native dialect phonetically – as a valid language for literature. Many of Welsh's works depict the harsh reality of housing schemes in Edinburgh, while most working class Scottish lit-

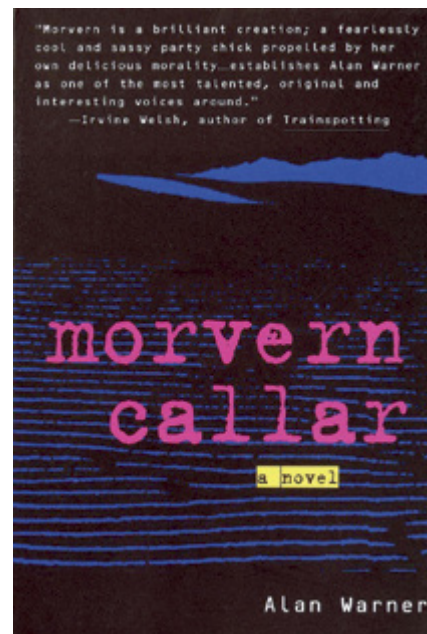


erature had traditionally come from Glasgow. Welsh's work is known for the vivid treatment of topics such as drug abuse, sex and crime.

### Alan Warner

Alan Warner started his writing career with an outstanding debut novel, *Morvern Callar* (1995), which was later turned into a film by Lynne Ramsay. The novel follows Morvern through her daily life as she goes to work, goes out partying and goes on holiday to a seaside Spanish resort like so many other Brits. Yet the way Morvern reacts to the death of someone she loves reveals that the novel is about

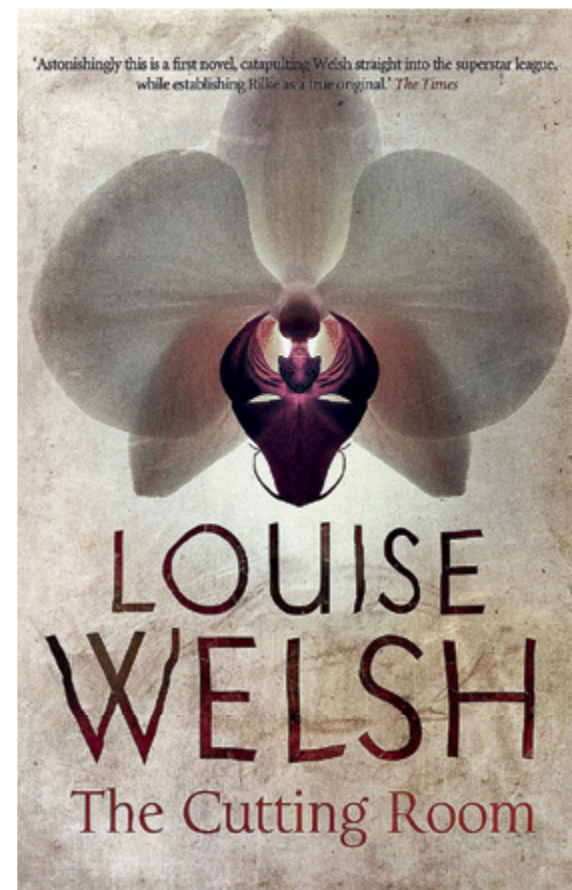
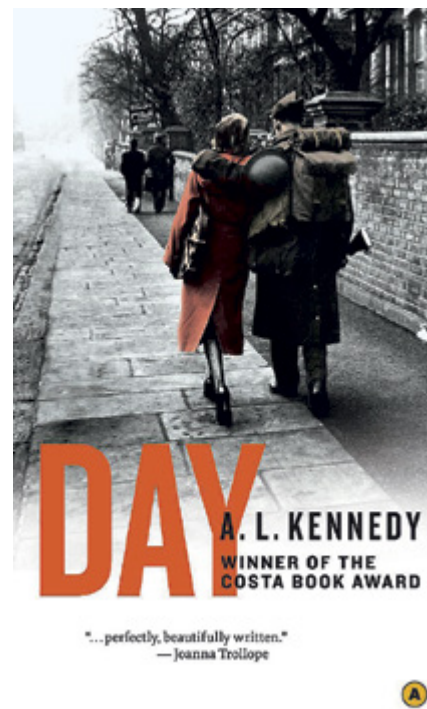
much more than a girl's routine in a small Scottish port town, and Warner manages to create a complex and unforgettable character. Warner has



written several other acclaimed novels and he was named as one of 20 in the Best of Young British Novelists by Granta magazine in 2003.

### A.L. Kennedy

Short story writer and novelist A.L. Kennedy was, like Alan Warner, nominated in 2003 as one of Granta magazine's Best of Young British



Novelists. In 2007 she won the Costa Book of the Year award with *Day*, a novel that explores the effects of war on the life of a World War II bomber. Treating themes such as child abuse, alcoholism, and failed relationships, Kennedy's fiction presents stories of loss, despair and depression with sensitivity, humour and wit.

### Louise Welsh

Louise Welsh established herself in the literary crime scene with her successful debut novel *The Cutting Room* (2002), which won the Crime Writers' Association John Creasey Memorial Dagger among other awards. The novel follows a Glaswegian auctioneer as he investigates the truth of a disturbing collection of photographs found in the house of a dead man. Her last two novels, *A Lovely Way to Burn* (2014) and *Death is a Welcome Guest* (2015), are parts of the *Plagues Trilogy*, set

insight on how the independence movement and left wing politics gained strength in Scotland. Robertson has also written several short story and poetry collections.

### Jenni Fagan

The *Panopticon* (2012), Jenni Fagan's debut novel, was widely praised in the UK and abroad and she was named one of Waterstones 11 best worldwide debut writers of the year. The novel follows the life of a teenage girl in state care. Her second novel, *The Sunlight Pilgrims*, came out in 2015. In this work, she explores

in an imaginary Britain that has been destroyed by a deadly disease.

### James Robertson

James Robertson's work includes both historical novels and novels set in present day Scotland. His widely praised novel *And the Land Lay Still* (2010), presents a panoramic and insightful exploration of Scottish society during the second half of the 20th century following the lives of many different characters from different backgrounds and periods whose stories are intertwined. Published a few years before the independence referendum, the novel provides an



life in a Scottish community during an exceptionally cold winter, where people live in extreme conditions and fear that the end of times is coming. Fagan's talent goes beyond writing novels and she has also been praised for her poems and short stories.





FILMS

# FILMS TO SEE BEFORE VISITING ENGLAND

SARAH DAWSON

England is home to some of the world's greatest actors, writers and directors, so it's no surprise that the country has a booming film scene. For a taste of classic British humour and a peek at some beautiful scenery, these are the films to watch before you visit.

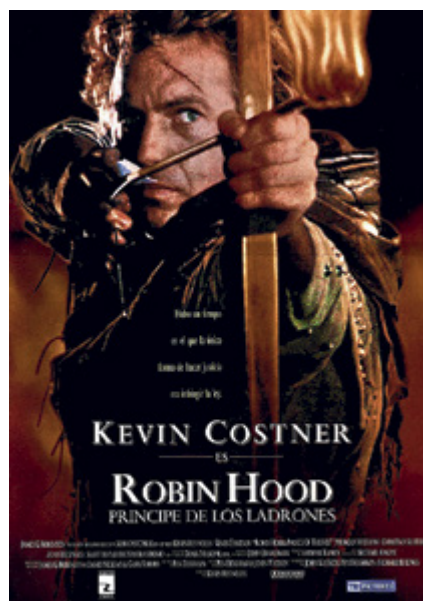
## Notting Hill (1999)

Celebrating this vibrant West London neighbourhood in all its glory, Notting Hill is a classic rom-com by top Brit screenwriter/director/producer Richard Curtis (Love Actually). It's a tale of boy (Hugh Grant) meets Hollywood superstar girl (Julia Roberts), and how life is turned upside down when you fall in love with one of the most famous people on Earth.



## Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991)

Here, Kevin Costner stars as Robin Hood, one of the most famous characters in English folklore. According to legend, this heroic outlaw lived with his band of merry men in Sherwood Forest, Nottingham, and liked to 'rob from the rich, to give to the



poor'. Although no scenes were shot in Nottingham, the film shows off the beauty of the English countryside to perfection – in particular the stunning Aysgarth Falls in Yorkshire.

## The Queen (2006)

Dame Helen Mirren's Oscar-winning performance of Queen Elizabeth II, set in the aftermath of Princess Diana's death, gives a glimpse

into the world of the country's monarchy at a pivotal time in modern British history.

Initially, the Royal Family regard Diana's death as a private affair and thus not to be treated as an official royal death. This is in contrast with the views of Tony Blair and Diana's ex-husband, Prince Charles, who favour the general public's desire for an official expression of grief. Matters are further complicated by the media, royal protocol regarding Diana's official status, and wider issues about republicanism.

The film was directed by Stephen Frears, written by Peter Morgan, and starred Helen Mirren in the title role of Queen Elizabeth II. The film's production and release coincided with a revival of favourable public sentiment in respect to the monarchy, a downturn in fortunes for Tony Blair, and the British inquiry into the death of Diana. Michael Sheen reprised his role as Tony Blair from The Deal in



2003, and he did so again in The Special Relationship in 2010. The Queen also garnered general critical and popular acclaim for Mirren in the title role, which earned her numerous awards. Mirren was praised by the Queen herself and was invited to dinner at Buckingham Palace. However, Mirren could not attend due to filming commitments in Hollywood.

## Shaun of the Dead (2004)

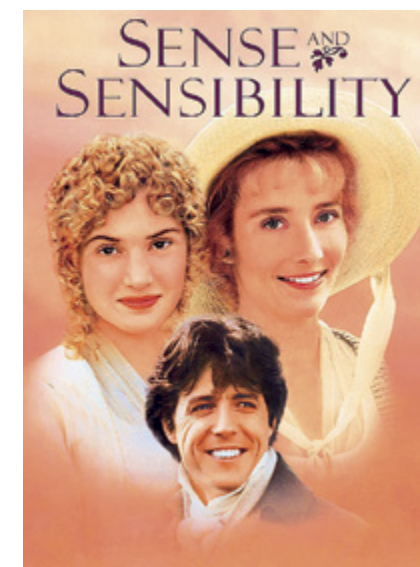
An apocalyptic zombie uprising might not be the obvious plot for a comedy, but Shaun of the Dead, co-written by and starring Simon Pegg, sums up the Brit's sense of humour very well. From the fact that



Shaun is too hungover to notice the streets have been taken over by zombies, to the decision to wait out the crisis in the local pub, the film is a witty take on how the English would deal with the end of the world.

## Sense and Sensibility (1995)

Working in the late 1700s and early 1800s, Jane Austen is one of the



country's most critically acclaimed and beloved novelists; her work includes Pride and Prejudice, Emma and, of course, Sense and Sensibility. This film adaptation of an Austen classic focuses on the Dashwood sisters, daughters of a wealthy English family hit by sudden destitution who are forced to find security through marriage.

## The Remains of the Day (1993)

British-American drama film and adapted from the Booker Prize-winning 1989 novel of the same name by Kazuo Ishiguro. The film was directed by James Ivory, produced by Ismail Merchant, Mike Nichols, and John Calley and adapted by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. It stars Anthony Hopkins as James Stevens and Emma Thompson as Miss Kenton, with James Fox, Christopher Reeve, and Hugh Grant in supporting roles.

The film was nominated for eight Acade-

my Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Hopkins), Best Actress (Thompson) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Jhabvala). In 1999, the British Film Institute ranked The Remains of the Day the 64th greatest British film of the 20th century.

## The King's Speech (2010)

The King's Speech is a historical drama film directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler. Colin Firth plays the future King George VI who, to cope with a stammer, sees Lionel Logue, an Australian speech and language therapist played by Geoffrey Rush. The men become friends as they work together, and after his brother abdicates the throne, the new king relies on Logue to help him make his first wartime radio broadcast on Britain's declaration of war on Germany in 1939.







Seidler read about George VI's life after overcoming a stuttering condition he endured during his own youth. He started writing about the relationship between the therapist and his royal patient as early as the 1980s, but at the request of the King's widow, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, postponed work until her death in 2002. He later rewrote his screenplay for the stage to focus on the essential relationship between the two protagonists. Nine weeks before filming began, Logue's notebooks were discovered and

quotations from them were incorporated into the script.

Principal photography took place in London and around Britain from November 2009 to January 2010. Hard light was used to give the story a greater resonance and wider than normal lenses were employed to recreate the Duke of York's feelings of constriction. A third technique Hooper employed was the off-centre framing of characters.

The King's Speech was a major box office and critical success. It was widely praised by film critics for its

visual style, art direction, screenplay, directing, score, and acting. Other commentators discussed the film's representation of historical detail, especially the reversal of Winston Churchill's opposition to abdication. The film received many awards and nominations, particularly for Colin Firth's performance, which resulted in his first Oscar win for Best Actor. At the 83rd Academy Awards, The King's Speech received 12 Oscar nominations, more than any other film in that year, and subsequently won four, including Best Picture. Censors initially gave it adult ratings due to profanity, though these were later revised downwards after criticism by the makers and distributors in the UK and some instances of swearing were muted in the US. On a budget of £8 million, it earned over £250 million (\$400 million) internationally.

#### Withnail and I (1987)

Regularly topping the 'Best British films ever made' charts, this black comedy is a cult classic. Set in London in the late '60s, the plot follows two unemployed actors, the acerbic Withnail (Richard E. Grant) and



luckless Marwood (Paul McGann), the 'I' in the title, as they waste their days getting drunk in their squalid flat. Needing a break, they go on holiday to the Lake District to stay at a cottage owned by Withnail's uncle – but let's just say it's not quite the recuperative getaway they had in mind.

#### Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994)

Another classic film from Richard Curtis, Four Weddings and a Funeral is as much a romantic comedy as



it is a celebration of real friendship. It follows Charles (Hugh Grant) and his eclectic circle of friends as they embark on a summer of attending weddings. Capturing English poshness in all its eccentricities, as well as the madness that surrounds wedding season in this country, Four Weddings and a Funeral is heart-warming, hilarious and touching.



#### Miss Potter (2006)

This film tells the story of renowned British children's author and illustrator, Beatrix Potter. It features the story of her life, intertwined with animated sequences featuring characters from her books, including Peter Rabbit; but it's perhaps

the stunning landscape of the Lake District that really steals the show. The sweeping views of the lakes and mountains, as well as the beautiful country cottages, will have you booking a trip there immediately.

#### Calendar Girls (2003)

Based on a true story of a group of Yorkshire women from the Knapely Women's Institute, it's English comedy at its most endearing. When one of the ladies loses her husband to leukaemia at an early age, they decide to raise money for Leukaemia Research by producing a calendar with the Women's Institute group discretely posing nude while doing traditional WI activities, like baking and knitting. You couldn't make it up!

#### The Theory of Everything (2014)

Bringing to life the memoirs of Jane Wilde Hawking, about her relationship with ex-husband Stephen



Hawking, his diagnosis of ALS and his incredible success in the world of physics, The Theory of Everything is a very inspirational watch. Eddie Redmayne's Oscar-winning performance as the world-famous theoretical physicist is fantastic, and the backdrop of Cambridge and its university is truly beautiful.





# 10 PLACES IN MOSCOW THAT ARE SURPRISINGLY BRITISH

MARIANNA HUNT

The whole of Russia's capital is littered with monuments marking almost 500 years worth of Brits in Moscow.

## Trading Places

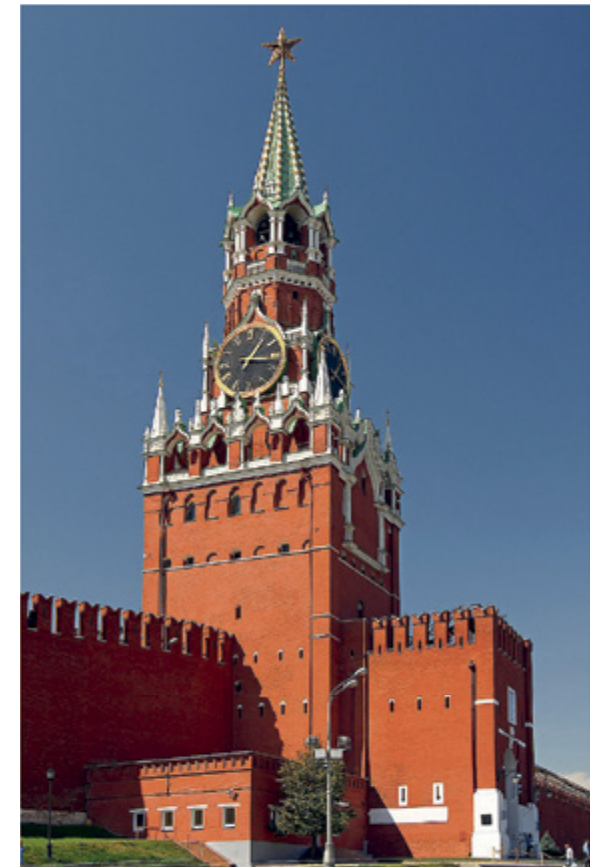
Shadowed by the Kremlin's high walls, a 16th century Elizabethan mansion cuts through the onion-domed churches of Moscow's skyline. The Old English Court was once the home of the first English traders and ambassadors in Russia. Today it is one of the oldest buildings in Moscow. After an English navigator pitched up in Russia by accident in 1553, trade between the two countries began. Relations were so successful that Ivan the Terrible even asked for Elizabeth I's hand in marriage. The response from the Virgin Queen was a polite no. From Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II: The Old English Court was reopened as a museum in 1994 with the British monarch herself in attendance. Mind your head on the low ceilings.



*The Old English Court*

## The Times They were a-Changing

When the Romanov dynasty came to power in 1613 they decided to give Moscow's Red Square a bit of a facelift. The Kremlin's iconic Spasskaya (Savior's) Tower was rebuilt and installed with the first ever chiming clock in Moscow. Scottish engineer, Christopher Galloway designed the timepiece so that not just the hands but the entire clock face would rotate. His reasoning? That the Rus-



*The Kremlin's clock was designed by a Scot*

sians do everything in an unusual way, so their national clock should do the same.

## Alice's Adventures in Russia-land

It's a little-known fact that the only time Lewis Carroll ever left British soil was on a trip to Russia. And the city of Moscow is very proud of its Carroll legacy. You can take tea at the March café in Moscow's Museum of Modern Art and admire the statue of the White Rabbit on Shcherbakovskaya Street. The bizarre events of the trip, documented by the author in his travel journal, supposedly became the inspiration for *Through the Looking-Glass*. Carroll spent his time in Moscow eating cabbage soup, drinking rowanberry liqueur and recording his favourite Russian words, including "zashchichaiushchikhsya" (someone who protects themselves).



*Lewis Carroll was a fan of Russia*

## Jumping Through Hoops

Croquet was first introduced to Russia by the British in the 1860s. It was embraced by the country's elite who often indulged in a round after breakfast. The game is still played in Russia today. One of the most popular lawns is at the Chekhov Mu-





*Chekhov loved tea and croquet CREDIT: GETTY*

seum at Melikhovo. Spend the day as a 19th century nobleman, whacking mallets and chasing balls on the former estate of Russia's greatest playwright. A gentleman in the most British sense of the word, Chekhov was a lover of croquet, tea and gardening.

### Only Gentleman Allowed

The classical facade of one of the most beautiful mansions on Moscow's Tverskaya Street was once also a smokescreen for wild gambling, sumptuous banquets and fierce political discussions by British expats. From 1771 it was home to the English Club, membership of which was



*Once the Bolsheviks seized power the English Club was turned into a military hospital*

Bolsheviks seized power the English Club was turned into a military hospital. Today it houses the Museum of Contemporary History.

### Moscow's Braveheart

The Scotsman who saved Russia from Na-



*Michael Barclay de Tolly*

oleon, Michael Barclay de Tolly was a hero of the Napoleonic Wars and one of the most famous commanders in Russian history. Though born

in what is now Lithuania, de Tolly's ancestry can be traced right back to the lochs and highlands of Caledonia. At the Battle of Borodino in 1812, de Tolly personally led Russia's troops on the bloodiest day of fighting during the Napoleonic Wars. The day is celebrated as the best example of Russian national spirit. De Tolly's portrait can be found at the Borodino Panorama Museum alongside a magnificent 360-degree painting of the battle.

### "Elementary my Dear Vasily..."

On the Smolenskaya Embankment, just in front of the British Embassy, you can find the world's only statue to feature both halves of literature's most famous detective duo. The faces of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Wat-



*Moscow's ode to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson CREDIT: GETTY*

son are not modelled on any British actors but on the two Russians who starred in the Soviet Holmes series that was one of the most successful programmes in Russian TV history. Both Queen Elizabeth II and Margaret Thatcher named Vasily Levanov's Holmes as their favourite ever portrayal of the detective.

### A Heavenly Chorus

St. Andrew's, 8 Voznesenskiy Pereulok, Moscow: not the address you might normally expect from an Anglican church. Since 1885, St



*St. Andrew's has been a feature in Moscow since 1885 CREDIT: GETTY*

Andrew's has been baptizing and marrying most of the expat Brits in Russia's capital. Legend has it that the church's benefactor, Scotsman William Hopper, also organised the first football match in Moscow. Apparently 200 to 300 locals would gather to watch English workers from Hopper's factory play. Today, congregations still worship in English at St Andrew's every Sunday and Wednesday. Its red brick facade and Victorian Gothic tower are a quirky British addition to Moscow's golden cupolas and grey skyscrapers.

### Pitch Perfect

After the first balls were kicked by Brits on Moscow's fields, the beautiful game began to take hold in Russia. An avid Blackburn Rovers fan, Englishman Harry Charnock founded one of the first professional football teams in Russia in the industrial town of Orekhovo-Zuevo to

the south-east of Moscow. Matches at Orekhovo-Zuevo were played on grass brought over from England with players wearing imported Blackburn shirts. Founded in 1909, the club at Orekhovo-Zuevo (now known as FC Znanya Truda Orekhovo-Zuevo) is the oldest club still active in the country.

### Retail Therapy Fit for a Tsar

In 1908 Scottish merchants Andrew Muir and Archibald Merrilees opened the doors of their Moscow haberdashery to the public, delivering high-end fashion and the latest gadgets across the entire Russian empire. Today their shop, Moscow's Central Universal Department Store, better known as TsUM, is the largest fashion department store in Eastern Europe. The Gothic Revival building which dominates the city's Theatre Square boasts of its own restaurants, cafés, cigar room, and champagne bar. Don't be surprised to bump into Victoria Beckham or Naomi Campbell at one of TsUM's glitzy events.







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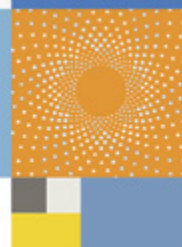


Knowledge grows

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LEGAL ADVICE

## CAN INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN (ILR) BE LOST? RETURNING RESIDENTS AND LOSING ILR

MERIAM ALTAF

Many people know what indefinite leave to remain is. It constitutes a major reaching point in a journey of a migrant in the UK. When the person acquires ILR or Permanent Residence (PR), any restrictions accompanying their leave are cancelled and they can remain in the UK indefinitely and as long as they desire.

The question that arises most often is how a person can lose indefinite leave to remain. In many other countries around the world, once ILR is acquired, it will remain in place indefinitely as the name suggests. This is not the case in the UK. Most people are aware that ILR can be lost through a consecutive absence from the UK of 2 years, but are things really that simple? Unfortunately, as with all the other areas of extremely convoluted UK Immigration Rules, the situation is far from being a straightforward one.

**ILR will lapse automatically following a consecutive absence of 2 years from the UK**

In accordance with the law, a person who has been absent in excess of 2 consecutive years from the UK will automatically lose their indefinite leave to remain. ILR will become invalid by virtue of the law, even though the holder may still be in possession of his BRP card or stamp in

their passport. There are only a few limited exceptions to this rule, for example for those serving overseas for a UK government.

**Cancellation of ILR through absence of less than 2 years**

Following from the information above, a common sense would dic-

low them to resume their residence, however the border officer “will assess whether a person can be admitted for entry under the requirements of paragraph 18”.

Often overlooked part of paragraph 18 (iv) states that not only a person must have been away from the UK for less than 2 years, but that person must be returning to the UK

for the purpose of settlement. In a scenario outlined above, a short return to the UK every two years may result in ILR being cancelled at the border, as at some stage the person may have created life overseas and will not, therefore, be returning to the UK for the purposes of



tate that an absence of less than 2 years would allow a person to keep their ILR and return to the UK without any issues. A question that most often follows from our clients upon learning that ILR can be lost through an absence of more than 2 years, “so I just have to return to the UK for a couple of days every 2 years to keep the ILR “active””? Quite expectedly, things are not that back and white (when are they?).

The Home Office’s guidance on returning residents states that a person absent for less than two years should be admitted back to the UK to al-

settlement, but rather attempting to enter as a visitor in order to prevent their ILR from lapsing.

It is important for those eligible to either apply for Naturalisation as British citizens when eligible or be mindful of the requirements above in order to prevent their ILR from lapsing.



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