

# RUSSIAN MIND

LA PENSEE RUSSE

№131/03 (5002)  
March 2021

Russkaya Mysl  
Russian/English

Founded in 1880  
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Основана в 1930 году  
при участии А. С. Пушкина  
Издание возобновлено  
в 1929 году при поддержке  
М. Горького



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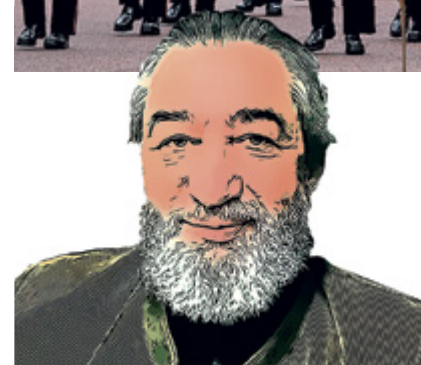


## EDITOR'S LETTER

# HAPPY NEW BREXIT!



Фото: Paul Fiedler



If you ask me, I have noticed that the British did not celebrate the first anniversary of Brexit! They apparently thought more about the first anniversary of the Coronavirus. COVID-19, as it were, left everything that came before it in the distant past. What seemed important to us just a year ago, looks like something faraway today. So much faraway, that it is hard to believe that it could even touch anyone. Why must Brexit touch people shying away from each other with masks on their faces?

Absolutely unchanged, shaggy like a year ago, Boris Johnson has succumbed to the virus and got sick, but somehow imperceptibly, although he is not very young. And so was his friend Donald Trump! If you listen to the BBC for a couple of minutes, you will discover that the disease kills al-

most everyone. And in general, it is very dangerous. Well, here I sit, writing and trembling. I am also not a young boy!

I involuntarily think of the great V. S. Naipaul. He had written so many brilliant smart books that he would probably have written something stunning about Coronavirus-style Brexit or Brexit-style Coronavirus. Call it as you wish! But he passed away in 2018. It's a pity. I have learned a lot from his books. There are people who have understood everything long ago, but we still cannot finish our thinking.

The truth is: with the Coronavirus, the very recent past has become sharply outdated, soaring ambitions have landed, the depth of thought has become shallow, the agility of movement has been restrained by the invisible bits of prohibitions.

Many Britons perceived Brexit as a form of liberation from the EU. But nobody remembers it now – it is no more relevant. Because one “bond” has been replaced by another.

Victor Loupan

Russian Mind  
№131/03(5002),  
MARCH 2021

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## HIGHLIGHTS

# ENGLISH BREAKFAST

*Nobody expected London to just slam the door and leave the EU*

VICTOR LOUPAN,  
*Head of the Editorial Board*

The British have long been famous for their extravagance. If you compare their manners and customs with the manners and customs of other Western Europeans, you will notice small differences. Left-hand traffic is just one of the clearest examples of such differences. English men's fashion is considered as an epitome of good taste and moderate elegance, despite the fact that jackets sewn in the Savile Row look like they are inherited from your younger brother.

Generally, the British never considered themselves as Europeans. In the manner typical of true islanders, they always spoke of Europe as a “continent” or the “mainland”, far from which they, the British, live. Which they abstract themselves from, if not completely, then “sufficiently”. The fact that hotels usually offer us two types of breakfast – “continental” and “English” – is a light culinary echo of this fundamental stylistic difference.

Prior to the sensational reign of King Henry VIII, with his six wives and innumerable mistresses, England was under the cultural influence of the Latin continental world. From a religious point of view, it was due to belonging to the Roman Catholic Church with its mass and education in the Latin language. But at the cultural level it was because of the powerful influence of France, the closest neighbor and historical enemy.

Henry VIII, breaking with the Roman Catholic Church in 1529 due to disagreements arising from unacceptable aspects of his intimate life, broke, in fact, with the Catholic world. This conflict gave rise to the

remarkable and tragic character of Thomas More, a victim of the royal bloody tyranny and later a Catholic saint.

But long before that break, during the period of the Protestant Reformation, England had been at war in

This conflict being the longest one in the history of Europe gave rise to the heroic figure of the young liberator Jeanne d'Arc, who was burned by the British at the stake following the verdict of the tribunal of the Catholic Church. The Church repented and sanctified her after a long time.

It is also interesting, that later Thomas More (1478–1535) began to be considered, along with the Italian philosopher Tommaso Campanella (1568–1639), as the forerunner of the idea of Communism – as a utopia, yes, but a perfect utopia! In the second part of his work “Utopia” (which literally means “a place that does not exist”) Thomas More described the prototype of the Communist structure of society. And Campanella followed and developed the More's ideas in the most significant of his works, “City of the Sun”. There is no private property in the City of the Sun, the family has been abolished, children are educated by the society, there is complete unification in clothing, everyday life, and behaviour. Absolutely everything is regulated by the society or the government headed by a ruler named the Sun or Metaphysician. It reminds



Photo: Fred Moon

France for more than a hundred years because of “dynastic” controversies. The notable Hundred Years' War actually lasted 116 years (1337–1453).

in clothing, everyday life, and behaviour. Absolutely everything is regulated by the society or the government headed by a ruler named the Sun or Metaphysician. It reminds

us of something similar, doesn't it?

In contrast, Jeanne d'Arc embodied popular opposition to the invaders. Not only Shakespeare or Voltaire wrote about her, but also Mark Twain, Anatole France, and Bernard Shaw. The latter, although being an Englishman, dedicated a work to her called “Saint Joan”. It is interesting now, that Jeanne is recognised as a heroine by both the ultra-leftists (feminists, fighters for national liberation) and the far-rightists, such as Le Pen.

Subsequently, the British Empire will become a stronghold of the fight against the French Revolution and its metastases. Representatives of the French aristocracy and other “activists from reactionary circles” who miraculously escaped beheading would find refuge in England.

The same, but for different reasons, was done by General De Gaulle in 1940, when England was the only European country not enslaved by Nazi Germany.

This brief historical excursion suggests that England has always been a kind of alternative for the passions that had been constantly overwhelming the European continent. Centuries-old English democracy, the well-known English tolerance, English elegance, and English humor have always influenced speculation of certain European elite circles. These people were miscalled “snobs” and “Anglomaniacs”, but they continued



Boris Johnson was ready to accept a no deal solution

to live and influence the European society. They have had and still have a very wide range of idols, from Oscar Wilde to The Beatles to Monty Python.

Unlike French or German ones, English cultural influence on Europe is not pompously elite. The English had neither Voltaire, nor Heidegger, nor Bach, nor Gothic, nor Renaissance. All this, of course, influenced them. But after the fact! Apparently, this is also why English culture has

retained its amazing originality without breaking with the European continental genius.

I could not avoid to mention here the amazing Grand Tour (“Le Grand Tour” in French, as used by the British without translation), a “great journey” undertaken by young people from wealthy aristocratic and bourgeois families for educational and cultural purposes in the 18th and 19th centuries. The routes of those trips being very popular in England



Photo: Jordhan Madec

often lasted several years and ran mainly through France and Italy, less often through Spain, and sometimes reached the Holy Places, that is, Palestine. The Grand Tour was, in general, the final stage in raising and educating young men. Young ladies were much less common there. They chose the most significant cities for that purpose, where they could most satisfactorily make themselves aware of the masterpieces of architecture,

sculpture, and painting from the times of antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. Natural sights such as the Alps, valleys, or the Mediterranean landscapes in the south of France and Italy were not stranger to them too. Thus, the highest-class educated Englishmen, as it were, had been introduced to beauty across the generations.

When France, Germany and Italy began to contemplate creating a

united European community, they quickly attracted the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) without even thinking about Great Britain. De Gaulle, although being extremely grateful to the British for the fact that they sheltered himself and the Resistance members during the war years, completely denied the possibility of Britain joining the European Community. And he was right, because

Great Britain unilaterally refused to join the Treaty of Rome, which laid the foundation for the European Economic Community (EEC). This happened back in 1957. Changing its mind, however, Great Britain applied for membership twice, in 1963 and 1967, but French President de Gaulle used his veto power each time and rejected the British candidacy. De Gaulle retired in 1969 and died in 1970.

In 1973 Great Britain finally joined the EU. But in 1974, the Conservative government led by Edward Heath was defeated in the elections. But the victorious Labour Party led by Prime Minister Harold Wilson immediately rushed to renegotiate the conditions for UK membership of the EEC and organise the first membership referendum. So, the first referendum challenging Britain's further EEC membership was held back in 1975. Voters then voted against withdrawing, but as a result the Labour Party split into two opposing camps, with a 2:1 ratio in favour of withdrawing.

This single example shows that UK membership of the European Union was problematic from the outset. And it has always remained problematic. Probably, many people still remember the cries of Margaret Thatcher: "I want my money back!"

So, despite the constant tension, especially between the UK and Germany, strangely enough, nobody expected London to just slam the door and leave the EU. Therefore, the result of the consultative referendum held on June 23, 2016, which served as the basis for the withdrawal, so dumbfounded everyone that no one could recover for a long time. The British themselves, especially residents of large cities, were simply shocked by what happened. After waiting for almost a year, the UK government nevertheless initiated the withdrawal procedure on March 29, 2017, "in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union". Initially, the formal exit from the EU was supposed to take place exactly two years later: on March 29, 2019, at 23:00 GMT. But then such frictions, maneuvers and dirty squabbles began where everyone fought with everyone, that the withdrawal date was extended until October. But the agreement was not reached by that deadline. Finally, the UK

membership of the EU which had lasted since 1973, had ended at midnight from January 31 to February 1, 2020.

The unthinkable thing has happened! The European Union, which had only expanded and expanded before that, suddenly lost one of its most important members. And it was its exclusion not for a misdemeanor, but upon the latter's own request. Prior to this, European propaganda tirelessly asserted that EU membership is the dream of every European.

The manifestation of maximalism on the part of Brussels was especially surprising. It began to impose incredible conditions on London, they say, "all or nothing". But over time, all of this began deflating, and ardor began to fade. And it turned out that the EU needed a good deal more than the UK, because Boris Johnson was ready to accept a no deal solution too.

Is Brexit good or not good for the UK? In fact, what did it change in the lives of ordinary citizens? There is no answer to this question yet. Because the Coronavirus has arrived! The economy stopped or slowed down significantly, people stopped moving between the countries. But we still aware of the best and the most important outcome: the visa-free regime did not change.

Great Britain is a great maritime power. That is why, in conclusion, I would like to send it a kind naval message: "A great ship requires great sailing!"



Photo: Christian Lue

# BREXIT SUPPORT FUND TO HELP OUT SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

The £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund will help small businesses with changes to trade rules with the EU.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove has announced a £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund to support small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) adjust to new customs, rules of origin, and VAT rules when trading with the EU.

SMEs who trade only with the EU and are therefore new to importing and exporting processes will be encouraged to apply for grants of up to £2,000 for each trader to pay for practical support including training and professional advice to ensure they can continue trading effectively with the EU.

This announcement follows extensive engagement with individual businesses, leading business organisations and trade associations from across all parts of the UK, including through the Brexit Business Taskforce. Chaired by Michael Gove the weekly meetings provided an opportunity to identify challenges and find solutions to outstanding issues. To provide SMEs with additional support, the fund will be administered through the pre-existing Customs Grant Scheme and will open for applications next month.

It has been set up to support businesses prepare for the new import controls coming into force from April and July, as set out in the Border Operating Model. Having taken back control of our borders, we made the pragmatic decision to introduce new

import controls in three stages up to 1 July 2021 to allow traders and hauliers time to adjust to new processes. This means businesses do not have to complete new import declarations for up to six months, unless they are moving controlled goods.

“The Government has listened carefully to the issues raised by the business community through the Brexit Business Taskforce and that’s why we are bringing forward this financial support to help small businesses adapt to the changes to our trading relationship with the EU,” said The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. “This new targeted funding will see small businesses get more of the practical support they need to adjust to the new processes and prepare for further changes as we implement our own import controls in April

and July. Together we will seize new opportunities available to a fully independent global trading United Kingdom.”

Members of the Brexit Business Taskforce have welcomed the additional support.

Mike Cherry, National Chair at the Federation of Small Businesses, said: “Today’s announcement is very significant. Small businesses, often with few cash reserves, are for the first time facing complex new customs processes, VAT requirements and rules of origin. While many have come to FSB for help, we have been asking for proper financial assistance of this scale, so that a cash-strapped small business can afford to buy-in expertise, training and practical support. The new fund will make a significant difference, and we are pleased that Ministers have really engaged with us on this, and come up with an excellent response.”

Allie Rennison, Head of Trade Policy at the Institute of Directors added: “This support package delivers on the IoD’s longstanding campaign to help SMEs access the professional advice needed in managing a suite of changes arising from Brexit. Smaller firms simply cannot manage many of the processes themselves and require experts across a range of areas to assist with trade conti-



Photo: Anastasiia Chepinska



Photo: Gene Gallin

nuity, and we commend this government for responding to our call.”

The government is also announcing that Logistics UK will be joining the Brexit Business Taskforce as standing members from today. Logistics UK’s constructive engagement and advocacy in tackling issues relating to the end of the transition period has been vital in supporting hauliers, traders and their supply chains adjust to our new relationship with the EU.

“Logistics UK welcomes the additional support that is being put in place to help SMEs make sure they can adapt and succeed in the new trading environment. These issues directly impact the operations and livelihoods of our members who carry their produce into the EU and have to be confident that the correct paperwork is in place,” said David Wells, Chief Executive of Logistics UK.

“I’m delighted that the government has recognised the importance of Logistics to our economy, and the critical role it plays in our future trading relationships with the EU, by inviting Logistics UK to represent the sector on the Brexit Business Task-

force, alongside the other major business groups in the UK,” Wells added. “Logistics UK has been at the forefront of helping government to keep Britain trading and I look forward to continuing our challenging and constructive dialogue focused on securing the best possible outcome for the whole sector and the economy.”

In addition to this new support, the government is:

- Meeting businesses from specific sectors across all parts of the UK weekly through the Brexit Business Taskforce chaired by Michael Gove. The latest meeting focused specifically on businesses in Wales.
- Establishing the Seafood Exports Working Group, meeting twice a week to troubleshoot issues raised by the industry; and a newly established Scottish Seafood Exports Task Force.
- Offering support to businesses moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland through its Trader Support Service.
- Providing numerous helplines which businesses can contact if they need further information.

- This includes managing dedicated HMRC exporting telephone and online helplines; The number is 0300 322 9434 and businesses can also speak to an adviser online at [tax.service.gov.uk](https://tax.service.gov.uk).
- Running regular webinars with policy specialists.
- Providing the Brexit Checker Tool on GOV.UK which gives businesses a personalised list of actions that they need to take.
- Offering face-to-face support for exporters in delivered via a network of around 300 International Trade Advisers (ITAs).
- Leading a specific taskforce working with businesses across Northern Ireland and Great Britain on issues related to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and
- Operating a range of other support schemes including a guarantee scheme aimed at SMEs which means the government can provide an 80% guarantee on financial support from lenders to help with general exporting costs, up to the value of £25 million.

# UK LAUNCHES WORLD-FIRST COVID-19 ALTERNATING DOSE VACCINE STUDY

The study will examine whether different vaccines can safely be used for 2-dose regimes in the future.

Patients taking part in a new clinical study will soon receive different COVID-19 vaccines for their first or second dose.

Backed by £7 million of government funding, the study will be the first in the world to determine the effects of using different vaccines for the first and second dose – for example, using Oxford University/AstraZeneca's vaccine for the first dose, followed by Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine for the second.

The study, run by the National Immunisation Schedule Evaluation Consortium (NISEC) across 8 National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) supported sites, will also gather immunological evidence on different intervals between the first and second dose for a mixed-vaccine regimen against control groups when the same vaccine is used for both doses.



Photo: Steven Connfield

A same-dose regimen is currently implemented for the national COVID-19 vaccination programme, and there are no current plans for this to change. Anyone who has received either the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccination as part of the UK-wide delivery plan will not be affected by this study. They will receive their second dose from the same source and over the same 12-week interval.

The 13-month study will monitor the impact of the different dosing regimens on patients' immune responses, which have the potential to be higher or lower than from the same dose regimen. Initial findings are expected to be released in the summer. The study has received ethics approval from the Research Ethics Committee, as well as approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Should the study show promising results, then the government may consider reviewing the vaccine regimen approach if needed, but only if proven to be safe and recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Minister for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, Nadhim Zahawi, said: "This is a hugely important clinical trial that will provide us with more vital evi-

dence on the safety of these vaccines when used in different ways. Nothing will be approved for use more widely than the study, or as part of our vaccine deployment programme, until researchers and the regulator are absolutely confident the approach is safe and effective."

Over 800 patients are expected to take part in the study, referred to as the COVID-19 Heterologous Prime Boost study or 'Com-Cov', across 8 different sites across England – including in London, Birmingham and Liverpool.

Patients will be recruited over the course of February via the NHS COVID-19 Vaccine Research Registry, with vaccinations expected to start towards the middle of the month and initial results to be made available over the summer period. The UK public can volunteer to be contacted about taking part in the study and further vaccine studies by joining the registry.

Chief Investigator Matthew Snape, Associate Professor in Paediatrics and Vaccinology at the University of Oxford, said: "This is a tremendously exciting study that will provide information vital to the roll out of vaccines in the UK and globally. If we do show that these vaccines can be used interchangeably in the same schedule this will greatly increase the flexibility of vaccine delivery, and could provide clues as to how to increase the breadth of protection against new virus strains."

# UK TO BOOST TO RAPID WORKPLACE COVID-19 TESTING



Photo: Mika Baumeister

New government drive to increase workplace testing in sectors open during lockdown, to detect coronavirus (COVID-19) in people who are not showing symptoms.

Cabinet ministers have been tasked to encourage their sectors to take up the offer of rapid workplace testing, marking efforts to normalise testing in the workplace across both public and private sectors.

The government is working closely with organisations across different sectors that are vital to the running of our country and where employees cannot work from home during lockdown, from transport networks to food manufacturers, to sign up to

rapid testing programmes that identify cases of coronavirus in employees who are not showing symptoms. This will help stop the spread of coronavirus and ensure vital public and economic services can continue.

Many employers have already taken up the offer of rapid, regular workforce testing, with 112 UK organisations across almost 500 sites joining government backed rapid testing. Now, the government can confirm that it has widened the criteria for joining the workplace rapid testing programme from businesses with more than 250 employees, to businesses with more than 50 employees.

This hugely increases the number of different businesses that are able to sign up, so that small and medium size companies can benefit from rapid testing as we work to Build Back Better.

Testing is key to breaking the chains of transmission. More than 2.5 million tests have been distributed across the public and private sectors so far, and an online portal has been launched to make it even easier for business in the private sector to get involved and find out more about offering rapid testing in the workplace. All those who can work from home should continue to do so.

Around one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and may be unknowingly spreading the virus. This expansion of testing will find more positive cases, keeping workers who cannot work from home unknowingly passing on the virus and protecting vital public services. It's essential we still continue to use tests to safeguard the population and prevent the spread of the virus.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said: "To save lives and protect the NHS, we have again asked for everyone to work from home. But we know that for some this is not possible, which is why the workplace rapid testing programme is so important."

"Employers should regularly test their staff, and this drive across government to raise awareness and encourage more businesses to introduce rapid testing for employees is incredibly important," he added. "When you consider that around one in three people have the virus without symptoms and could potentially infect people without even knowing it, it becomes clear why focusing testing on those without symptoms is so essential."

"We are already working with many employers to scale up workforce testing, spanning the food industry, retail sector, transport network, and across the public sector too. I strongly urge businesses and employees across the country to take up this offer of rapid testing to help stop this virus spreading further."

WORLD OF CHANGE

# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Now that the UK has left the EU, the UK Government has powers to implement evidenced based marine management that will help ensure our seas are managed sustainably, protecting both the long-term future of the fishing industry and our precious wildlife and habitats.

Also, some of the UK's most polluting industries will benefit from £40 million funding to help them cut their carbon emissions, while reducing their energy bills, the government announced.

## Safeguarding the UK seas

Marine Protected Areas are designated areas of the ocean which include habitats and species essential for healthy, functioning marine eco-systems. The purpose of a Marine Protected Area is to protect and enhance rare, threatened and important habitats and species from damage caused by activities that take place within it.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is consulting on byelaws being proposed under new powers introduced under the Fisheries Act, the UK's first major domestic fisheries legislation in nearly 40 years. These byelaws aim to prohibit fishing activities in Marine Protected Areas where there is evidence that they harm wildlife or damage habitats. The proposed byelaws seek to prohibit the use of bottom towed fishing gear in all four sites and additional restrictions for static gears over sensitive features in two of the sites.

The consultation runs from 1 February 2021 to 28 March 2021 and follows a call for evidence, which



Photo: Nabih El Boutsani

closed in December 2020, where the MMO sought additional evidence and views on the draft assessments and management options for the four offshore Marine Protected Areas.

These first four Marine Protected Areas were chosen as a priority to help protect their vibrant and productive undersea environments, and include the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation, which has the largest shallow sandbank in British waters and supports commercial fish species such as cod and plaice, as well as sand eels that provide an important

food source for kittiwakes, puffins and porpoises.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said: "Now that we have left the Common Fisheries Policy, we are able to deliver on our commitment to achieve a healthy, thriving and sustainable marine environment. The UK has already established an impressive 'Blue Belt' covering 38% of our waters and our Fisheries Act has provided us with additional powers to go further to protect our seas around England. This proposal to introduce byelaws to safeguard four

of our precious offshore Marine Protected Areas shows how we are putting these powers into action."

Action is already being taken to tackle unsustainable activities within England's seas, with management measures introduced in many inshore sites through byelaws introduced by

## £40 million to help polluting businesses clean up

Businesses in energy-intensive sectors, including pharmaceuticals, steel, paper and food and drink, will be able to apply for grants worth up to £14 million through the government's Industrial Energy Transformation Fund – totalling £289 million in funding up until 2024.

In this second competition window, the minimum grant has been lowered to £100,000 for deployment projects, offering more flexibility for small businesses to receive funding so they can speed up getting their ideas to market.

With potential projects taking place across the East and West Midlands, North East, North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber as well as Wales and Northern Ireland, the government grants will enable businesses to use new technology to improve the efficiency of industrial processes and reduce energy demand.

They will drive them towards a cleaner, more sustainable future as part of our green industrial revolution by 2030 and mission to eliminate our contribution to climate change by 2050.

This includes factories installing electric motors and heat pumps to replace their natural gas-fired boilers and steam turbines, manufacturers using heat recovery technology to recycle waste heat and generate renewable electricity, and industries such as the food and drink sector carrying out studies to replace natural gas with hydrogen as their primary fuel.

Doing so will create and support thousands of British jobs, cut carbon emissions and lead to cleaner air for the people of the UK.

Energy Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: "We can only achieve our ambitious plans to tackle climate change if everyone plays their part, including businesses large and small. That's why our £40 million investment will not only help some

of the highest polluting industries like steel, paper and pharmaceuticals build back greener by finding innovative ways to reduce their carbon emissions but will also create more opportunities for growth and jobs by levelling up and making industry fit for the future."

The fund supports the UK government's mission to build back greener and level up the country's industrial heartlands by allowing them to lay the path for economic growth.

The government's Industrial Energy Transformation Fund is worth £289 million with funding available across England, Wales and Northern Ireland up until 2024. The fund supports heavy industry as the UK transitions to a low-carbon economy.

Today's announcement follows an initial launch in June 2020 which saw 39 applications approved for funding in the first window, totalling £31 million.

It is calculated that as a result of these projects carbon emissions will be reduced by 2.6 million tonnes over their lifespan, which is equivalent to taking 38,000 fossil-fuelled cars off the road over a 30 year period.



Photo: Vecterzy

## HISTORIC EVENT

# THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF ELIZABETH II

The UK will celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch with a blockbuster weekend of celebrations, Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden has announced.

The May Bank Holiday Weekend will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.

This historic event will reflect on Her Majesty's reign, and her impact on the UK and the world since 1952.

Activity will build across 2022 in the run up to the four day weekend, when the eyes of the world will turn to the UK.

The four day celebrations will feature an extensive programme of events that mix the best of British ceremonial splendour and pageantry with cutting edge artistic and technological displays. These will be interspersed with the traditional nationwide fanfare and celebrations.

Spectacular moments in London and other major cities will be complemented by events in communities across the UK and the Commonwealth, allowing people to join together in celebration and thanks at a national and local level.

Plans for the Platinum Jubilee are being developed in conjunction with some of the UK's leading creative minds, event organisers and world class digital design companies. Using the talents of the UK's cultural and creative sectors, the programme will engage young people from across the Commonwealth and use new technology in exciting ways.

In keeping with tradition, a Platinum Jubilee medal will be awarded to people who work in public service including representatives of the Armed Forces, the emergency services and the prison services. This tradition stretches back to the reign of Queen Victoria when an official

medal was designed to mark her 50th anniversary on the throne.

“Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee will be a truly historic moment – and one that deserves a celebration to remember,” said Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden. “We can all look forward to a special, four-day Jubi-

lee weekend, when we will put on a spectacular, once-in-a-generation show that mixes the best of British ceremonial splendour with cutting edge art and technology. It will bring the entire nation and the Commonwealth together in a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's reign.”



The commemorations are being arranged jointly with The Royal Household and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Further details on all aspects of programming, including events and how the public can get involved will be released in the months ahead.

2022 will be a significant year for Britain as we will also host The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and Festival UK 2022, each of which will bring a worldwide focus to the UK and will showcase the best of 21st Century Britain.

### History of Royal Jubilees

Royal Jubilees are an occasion to celebrate the life and reign of a Monarch, and are significant events which are celebrated around the world. Though the concept of the jubilee began in biblical times, today the term is most closely associated with the Royal Family, and the ceremony and spectacle which the term symbolises.

In the New Testament, Jesus presents himself as the One who brings the old Jubilee to completion, because he has come to “preach the year of the Lord’s favour” (Isaiah 61: 1–2). In the Roman Catholic Church, jubilees began to be celebrated formally in 1300 AD and are years of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation. They are celebrated every 25 years. The most recent year of jubilee was 2000.

Royal Jubilees celebrate significant periods in monarchs’ reigns and the national life. Few British monarchs have achieved reigns of 50 years, and Golden Jubilees are very rare. There are few records of how – if at all – Henry III, Edward III and James VI and I celebrated their 50-year milestones.

The first British monarch to mark 50 years on the throne in a significant way was George III, followed by Queen Victoria. The Queen has had significant jubilee celebrations in 1977 (for her Silver Jubilee), 2002 (for her Golden Jubilee) and 2012 (for her Diamond Jubilee).

### George III

The celebration of the Sovereign’s jubilee years really began in the long reign of King George III. The beginning of the fiftieth year of his reign, on 25 October 1809, was marked both in Britain and the Colonies. The King and other members of the Royal Family attended a private service in Windsor and a grand fete and firework display at Frogmore. In London the Lord Mayor and Corporation

the parks to Buckingham Palace for a royal banquet in the evening. Fifty foreign kings and princes, along with the governing heads of Britain’s overseas colonies and dominions, attended the feast.

She wrote in her diary of the event: “Had a large family dinner. All the Royalties assembled in the Bow Room, and we dined in the Supper-room, which looked splendid with the buffet covered with the gold plate. The table was a large horseshoe one, with many lights on it.

“The King of Denmark took me in, and Willy of Greece sat on my other side. The Princes were all in uniform, and the Princesses were all beautifully dressed. Afterwards we went into the Ballroom, where my band played.”

On the following day, Queen Victoria travelled in an open landau to



processed to St Paul’s Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving before holding a dinner at the Mansion House.

### Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee was celebrated on 20 and 21 June 1887. On 20 June the day began quietly with breakfast under the trees at Frogmore, the resting place of her beloved late husband, Prince Albert.

She then travelled by train from Windsor to Paddington and across

Westminster Abbey, escorted by Indian cavalry. The procession through London, according to Mark Twain, “stretched to the limit of sight in both directions”.

Bodies of soldiers in one colour, then another, marched past the spectators, who were accommodated on terraced benches along 10 miles of scaffolding erected for the purpose. Queen Victoria rode in the procession in her gilded State landau, drawn by six cream-coloured horses. She refused to wear a crown, wearing instead a bonnet and a long dress.

The Queen took a keen interest in her Empire, and many representatives of the colonies attended the celebrations. The number of Indian princes – “men of stately build and princely carriage”, noted Mark Twain – in splendid ceremonial dress, who attended to pay their respects, and the Indian cavalry which escorted the Queen to Westminster Abbey, attracted much attention.

On return to the Palace, she appeared on the balcony, where she was cheered by huge crowds. In the Ballroom she distributed Jubilee brooches to her family. In the evening, she put on a splendid gown embroidered with silver roses, thistles and shamrocks for a banquet. Afterwards she received a long procession of diplomats and Indian princes. She was then wheeled in her chair to sit and watch the fireworks in the garden.

In her journal the Queen wrote: “No one ever, I believe, has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through those 6 miles of streets... The cheering was quite deafening & every face seemed to be filled with real joy. I was much moved and gratified.”

### History of jubilee souvenirs

Commemorative souvenirs have been a popular way of marking Royal events such as Jubilees for the last three centuries. The earliest known English commemorative items date from the Restoration of Charles II as king in 1660, followed by his Coronation in 1661 and wedding in 1662. The arrival of new manufacturing methods in the last 250 years made such items



Ten years later, Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee was marked by many celebrations, including, on 22 June 1897, a progress to St Paul’s Cathedral, where a short service of thanksgiving was held outside the building, as the Queen was too lame to manage the steps.

Eleven colonial Prime Ministers were in attendance. The Queen’s progress continued via the Mansion House across London Bridge and through South London, before returning over Westminster Bridge, past the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace.

more affordable by the general public.

Popular items which have been used to commemorate Jubilees past and present include coins, stamps and ceramics.

Special issue coins were first used to mark a Royal Jubilee with the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. The majority of jubilee coins have been issued in crown size (the crown was equal in value to 5 shillings), because the size of the coin allows more detail. Commemorative coins are not intended for general

use and are almost always collected in uncirculated mint condition. For The Queen’s Silver Jubilee a special 25-pence coin was issued, designed by Andrew Machin. On the obverse it shows The Queen on horseback, and on the reverse, the coronation ampulla and anointing spoon with a floral decoration around. A total of 473,000 of these coins were issued in sterling silver; a further 37,453,000 were issued in copper-nickel.

The first stamps associated with a Royal event were those issued in 1887, the year of Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, although they were not intended as commemorative issues. Specific Jubilee sets of stamps were first issued in 1935 for George V’s Jubilee, including issues in the dominions, including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa. Stamps were also issued for The Queen’s Silver Jubilee in 1977, amounting to over 200 stamps in the UK, Crown dependencies and Commonwealth countries.

Ceramics have also proved popular for Jubilee souvenirs. Commemorative items survive in significant numbers from the reign of George III onwards, taking advantage of industrialized production methods such as transfer prints to produce affordable items including mugs, bowls, plaques, jugs and urns.

As well as these traditional items, many imaginative Jubilee pieces have been produced over the years. Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, for example, was celebrated with souvenir items including teapots, butter dishes, mirrors, handkerchiefs, woven silk pictures and even wallpaper and pipes. For The Queen’s Silver Jubilee items ranged from plates, money boxes, jugs and vases to socks, shopping bags, jigsaw puzzles and t-shirts.

Of course, not all Jubilee souvenirs have high commercial value, especially those produced in large numbers – it is the meaning and memories associated with the souvenirs which gives them their value.

Source: *The Royal Family*

# THE QUEEN'S MEDALS FOR MUSIC AND POETRY: AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The Queen has approved the award of Her Majesty's Gold Medal for Poetry for the year 2020 to David Constantine, while the award of Her Majesty's Medal for Music for the same year went to Thomas Trotter.

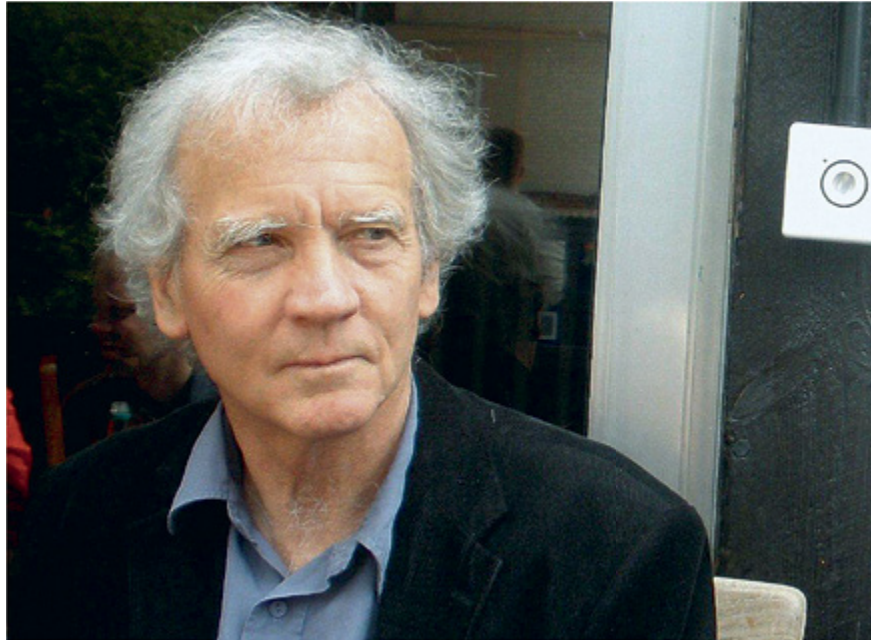
## *Her Majesty's Gold Medal for Poetry*

The Gold Medal for Poetry was established by King George V in 1933 at the suggestion of the then Poet Laureate, John Masefield, and is awarded annually for excellence in poetry. Each year's recipient is from the United Kingdom or a Commonwealth Realm.

The Poetry Medal Committee recommended David Constantine as this year's recipient on the basis of his eleven books of poetry, in particular his *Collected Poems*, published in 2004, which spans three decades of his work. The committee is chaired by the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, who received The Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry for 2018.

David Constantine has made significant contributions both to the European poetic tradition and to contemporary poetry, and the inspiration for his work ranges from the everyday, nature and our relationship with the planet, to the mythical world of Ancient Greece.

While poetry is at the heart of David Constantine's prolific career, he is also a scholar, a novelist, and an award-winning short-story writer and translator, whose translations of Goethe, Friedrich Hölderlin and



David Constantine. Photo: Poets & Players

Bertolt Brecht have been hailed by critics in the UK and internationally.

On hearing of the award, David Constantine said: "These past few days I have been thinking of the many people, living and dead, who have accompanied me in the writing of my poems. It has made me all the more grateful for this generous award."

The Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, said: "Above all, David Constantine is a 'humane' poet – a word often used in connection with his work, as if in noticing and detailing the ways of the world he is doing so on behalf of all that is best in us. For over forty years he has shaped a body of work that stands in comparison with that of any of his contemporaries, not just at home but internationally, navigating and negotiating that space

between everyday events and their metaphysical or spiritual 'otherness'."

David Constantine was born in Salford in 1944 and read Modern Languages in Oxford, before lecturing in German at Durham and Oxford. During his career, he has published eleven books of poetry, including *Belongings* (2020) and *Collected Poems* (2004).

For many years he was a commissioning editor for Oxford Poets, and then co-editor of the journal *Modern Poetry in Translation*, and has judged several literary prizes, including the T. S. Eliot Prize. As well as a poet, David Constantine is a scholar, novelist, short story writer and translator. His body of work includes translations of poets and playwrights, such as Goethe, Friedrich Hölderlin and Bertolt Brecht.

The front of the medal bears the crowned effigy of The Queen. The idea of the reverse, which was designed by the late Edmund Dulac, is 'Truth is emerging from her well and holding in her right hand the divine flame of inspiration – Beauty is Truth and Truth Beauty'. The latter part of this description is a quotation from John Keats's poem, "Ode on a Grecian Urn".

## *Her Majesty's Medal for Music*

Awarded every year to an outstanding individual or group of musicians, The Queen's Medal for Music was first presented to Sir Charles Mackerras on November 22nd 2005, the feast day of St Cecilia, Patron Saint of music. The award came at the suggestion of former Master of The Queen's Music, the late Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

Previous winners include the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, jazz musician Gary Crosby and, most recently, pianist Imogen Cooper.

Mr. Trotter is one of the world's most revered concert organists, and is the sixteenth recipient of the award. He has been the Birmingham City Organist since 1983, and is also a Visiting Fellow in Organ Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Mr. Trotter has toured on four continents, and is often invited to perform the commissioning recital on new or restored organs, including at the Royal Albert Hall and St. David's Hall in Cardiff. He has partnered with world renowned conductors, including Sir Charles Mackerras, the Medal's first recipient.

In recognition of his achievements, Mr. Trotter was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society's esteemed Instrumentalist Award in 2011, and was named International Performer of the Year for 2012 by the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In 2016, he received the Royal College of Organists Medal, the institute's highest honour.



Thomas Trotter

The nominating process for the award is overseen by a committee chaired by the Master of The Queen's Music, Judith Weir. The committee meet annually to discuss their nominees before submitting their recommendation to The Queen for approval.

Commenting on the award, the Master of The Queen's Music, Judith Weir, said: "This year's medal salutes a world-famous organist who has done so much to widen and brighten the realm of this great instrument.

Thomas Trotter's series of regular recitals over four decades as Birmingham City Organist is an inspiring example of civic engagement for all performing musicians."

On hearing of the award, Thomas Trotter said: "I am deeply honoured to be awarded The Queen's Medal for Music for 2020. To have my work recognised in this way is totally unexpected and highly gratifying, and it is a privilege to join the list of distinguished recipients of this award."

# THE DAY OF THE ORTHODOX BOOK

AUGUSTINE SOKOLOVSKI,  
*Doctor of Theology, Priest*



Andrei Rublev. *Apostol Paul*. 1410–1420

March 14 is celebrated in Russia as the Day of the Orthodox Book. This holiday is relatively new. It was established on the initiative of the Russian Orthodox Church in 2009. The date of the celebration was not chosen at random. It concerns the fact that on this very day in 1564 the first precisely dated printed book was published in Moscow. It is not difficult to guess that this was the liturgical Epistles of Ivan Fedorov.

Historically, this date is not without some ambiguity. It is known that after having published the book Fedorov was soon forced to leave Russia. The printer found refuge with the Polish King Sigismund II and was then again forced to move to Lviv, where he published *The Apostle* for the second time in 1574. It is interesting to compare the afterword he printed himself for these two editions. If the first is solemn and describes the publication as a celebration, the second describes – among other things – the story of his wanderings and sufferings. The purpose of the celebration of the Day of the Orthodox Book is to overcome this deep-rooted ambivalence.

Books are a great gift from above; they are the most important element of history and culture and a great factor of the Orthodox mission. The decision to celebrate the Day of the Orthodox Book was taken based on these principles. In the light of this, it will be interesting to consider the role of the text in the history of Orthodox Christianity.

The teaching of the Church is built on the Bible, on the text of both Testaments. Scripture is divinely inspired. It represents the norm of every Church teaching. According to Christian understanding, however, its authenticity corresponds as well to certain historical epochs, and reflects the mentality and worldview of its authors. Therefore it requires critical analysis and constant scientific and spiritual interpretation. In this sense, Scripture is not completely identical to Revelation, but it is a part of it. It is a paradox of early Christian history that what became the Gospel and the Epistles were originally transmitted orally and not written down. Jesus Christ did not write anything, nor did most of the apostles leave anything in writing. It is in this duality between the oral and the written that one of the most important features of Christianity emerges.

The next generation after the immediate disciples of Christ is called the Apostolic Fathers: Barnabas, Clement of Rome, Hermas, Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna. They all lived and wrote at the turn of the first and second centuries.

The fact that their writings contain many passages from the New Testament was quite difficult to understand for researchers. They are quoted close to the extant texts, but almost never match the original exactly. The explanation has only recently emerged. For centuries, the prevailing view was that the New Testament writings began shortly af-

ter Christ's Ascension. For example, Matthew was believed to have written his Gospel only eight years after the event. At the same time, it was believed that the Gospels were the work of individual authors. Now we know that they were written gradually, step by step. The Scriptures are the perennial work of the apostolic communities, the churches who worked around the Evangelists. In them, every word was verified by the inspiration of God's Spirit.

Therefore, the Holy Scriptures are historical and contain the Word of God within. Very astonishing is how much the early Christian community itself could be the living Scripture and Tradition. It is also amazing how much more developed church life and theology already were. The volume of oral teaching, the transmission capacity and the depth of theological knowledge that the churches

had at the time of the Apostolic Fathers are remarkable.

Thus, this dialectic of the text and its absence was originally inherent in Orthodox Christianity. In a way, it also illustrates the paradox that despite the time lag between the beginning of printing in Western Europe in 1445 and the publication of the first book in Moscow, it cannot, therefore, be said that Russia was uneducated. Russian culture was both in oral and manuscript form. Symbolically, it is also interesting that in the history of Christianity, the first Epistles of the Apostle Paul were at first called "the New Testament" as a written text. In turn, the first printed book in Russia was the liturgical Epistles. Anyway, the thesis of the famous Russian writer Nikolai Leskov (1831–1895) that "Russia was baptised but not enlightened" finds itself in need of revision.



*Apostol* (1564), the first Russian printed publication that has an exact date, was published by Ivan Fedorov

## HISTORY

# 10 BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Britain's eclectic history means it's a nation that is incredibly rich in archaeology. From well-known Neolithic sites like Stonehenge and Avebury, to Roman roads, Saxon hoards and Viking burial sites, the land beneath our feet provides many clues about the country's past.

Alongside several archaeological sites in the heart of our cities, many finds have been unearthed in the expanses of Britain's countryside, giving you the chance to delve into the nation's history and culture when we're all able to travel again. Here are the top 10 sites to visit, according to Visit Britain.

### London Mithraeum – London

Once home to the Roman temple of Mithras, the London Mithraeum sits in the heart of the City as part of Bloomberg's European Headquarters, close to St Paul's Cathedral. Archaeological excavations during construction for the building in 2012 unveiled a collection of incredible artefacts, many of which are displayed in the London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE – a museum and reconstruction of the temple

that exists just 100 metres from its original site. Featuring immersive experiences, it delves into the history of Roman London and a period when the capital was significantly different to how it is today.

### Sutton Hoo / The British Museum

Representing Britain's – and even Europe's – most impressive archae-

ological find, the incredible Anglo-Saxon royal burial site at Sutton Hoo unearthed an abundance of medieval treasures. In 1939, an amateur archaeologist discovered a burial mound featuring the imprint of a 27-metre long boat, complete with a central chamber containing the possessions of an Anglo-Saxon king, whose exact identity remains a mystery. Alongside swords, feasting vessels and silverware from the distant Byzantine empire, archaeologists

uncovered an unusual 'human mask' helmet – one of only four from the period to survive to this day – as well as gold buckles, coins and other artefacts. Many of the treasures are now on display at the British Museum in London, while it's also possible to explore the 255-acre Sutton Hoo estate, which is looked after by the National Trust.

### The Roman Baths – Bath

Sat in the centre of Bath and dating back to the first few decades of the Roman occupation of Britain in around 60–70AD, the Roman Baths provide a unique glimpse into life during that period. Although not discovered until the late 19th century, the remains of the vast Roman temple and bath house once formed part of a small settlement known as Aquae Sulis. The Great Bath is fed by

hot spa water, while the changing facilities feature an early version of an underfloor heating system called a hypocaust – highly advanced technology at the time. The site offers history buffs the chance to learn about the numerous archaeological finds from the region, including the Beau Street Hoard, a set of more than 17,000 Roman coins that were found in the city. If you're looking to explore the site from home you can also discover more with online tours, videos and a 3D model of the Roman baths and Pump Room.

### Portchester Castle, Hampshire

Standing proudly overlooking Portsmouth Harbour, Portchester Castle has provided a striking defensive position on England's south coast since the 3rd century. Initially a Roman fort – used to fend off Saxon invaders – it was developed over the centuries into a castle and vast royal residence. A number of the fortifications remain, and it is regarded as one of the best preserved Roman forts in northern Europe.

### Greyfriars – Leicester

Once a thriving medieval monastery, the site at Greyfriars also has an important royal connection. It was here, following excavations under a car park in Leicester in 2012, that the grave of Richard III was found – the last English king killed in battle, at Bosworth Field in 1485. The friary, first developed in the early 13th century,

is now a protected scheduled monument, while a visitor centre at the site explores the quest to find and identify him.

### Jorvik Viking Centre – York

Excavations in the 1970s at Coppergate in York uncovered a vast array of Viking artefacts from around 1,000 years ago. The site is now home to the Jorvik Viking Centre, which takes you on a journey back in time to explore life in that period. Some 40,000 objects were unearthed during the dig, including everything from shoes and shields to weapons, coins and pottery, all of which have been lovingly preserved by the York Archaeological Trust. The centre's immersive experience delves into the



Photo: K. Mitch Hodge



Photo: Toa Heftiba

dig itself and features reconstructions of the houses, workshops and streets of the Viking-age city of Jorvik, as it was all those centuries ago.

## Vindolanda – Hadrian’s Wall – Northumberland

Telling the tale of the Roman frontier at Hadrian’s Wall, Vindolanda acted as a vital garrison base throughout their time in Britain. Regular excavations uncover new finds year after year, helping to piece together the region’s impressive history – many of these are displayed at the museum at the site. Set amid striking Northumberland countryside and featuring the remains of a bath house, barrack buildings and a religious temple, it is believed Vindolanda was demolished and reconstructed nine times. Relics discovered at the site include a set of wooden writing tablets, considered to be Britain’s oldest remaining examples of texts written by hand, alongside an array of coins, pottery and weaponry.

## Callanish Stones – Isle of Lewis – Scotland

Dating back 5,000 years, the Callanish Stones predate England’s Stonehenge and carry great ritual and astronomical importance. Found on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, thirteen stones form a ring, with a monolith near its centre, while five different lines of standing stones link



Photo: Toa Heftiba



Photo: Gordon Williams

to the centre. The Story of the Stones is explored at the Calanais Visitor Centre, which delves into the mysteries of why the Neolithic site exists. A chambered tomb may have carried ritual or religious importance, while others have theorised that the site may have lunar links.

## Skara Brae – Orkney – Scotland

Another remarkable prehistoric monument is the Neolithic village of Skara Brae. First uncovered by storms in 1850, over the years winds and high tides have slowly revealed an array of stone dwellings and covered passages. The incredibly well-preserved site

forms part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site and in the 1970s radiocarbon dating found it was probably inhabited for a period of circa 600 years, somewhere between 3200BC and 2200BC. A replica house details what life may have been like for people at the time, while the region’s striking landscapes and birdlife provide plenty to capture your imagination.

## Bignor Roman Villa – West Sussex

Located in the centre of the South Downs National Park, the remains of Bignor Roman Villa help to capture the imagination. Found in 1811 when it was hit by a plough, the rural villa’s exquisite mosaic floors survive to this day, showcasing the incredible craftsmanship of the era. Dating to around the 2nd century, excavations have revealed jewellery, pottery and a baby burial at the site. Stane Street Roman Road, a route linking London to Chichester, can be found a short distance to the south-east, one of many walking and hiking trails to explore.



Photo: wikipedia/commons-

# UK'S MOST ROMANTIC CITY SPOTS

From boat-lined canals to grand palaces and sweeping countryside, Britain's cities and their surrounding areas are packed with romantic charm. So if a walk through London's 'Little Venice' or exploring 'Mr Darcy's' grand estate near Manchester sound like dream getaways, here's Visit Britain's guide to how visitors can add a touch of enchantment to future stays in London, Brighton, Manchester and Cardiff.

## London's canals and open-air theatres

Visitors can plan to discover the capital's tranquil side with an atmospheric walk along Regent's Canal, just north of Paddington. This nine-mile canal-side walk starts in picturesque Little Venice, continues past the historic locks to Camden Town and finishes in London Docklands. Couples looking for some laid-back romance can explore Regent's Canal by boat. Options include Jason's Trip, which has been delighting visitors since 1951, passing sights such as Regent's Park,



Photo: Alex Motoc

Cumberland Basin and Primrose Hill along the way.

Visitors can also look forward to a romantic evening at the award-winning Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, with performances of classic plays including Romeo & Juliet and Carousel.

## Brighton's pavilion and country park

Brighton is packed with romantic landmarks, many of which reveal the region's royal connections. Future explorers can revel in the grandeur of Brighton Pavilion. Built in the 18th century for King George IV, it was the marital home of King William IV and Queen Adelaide. A Brighton icon, it is known as a beacon of luxury, awash with opulent treasures and topped with majestic domes. Visitors longing to explore this regal home can enjoy a virtual tour of the Pavilion, before booking the real thing. Alternatively, they can gain a deeper insight into the palace's history at the

A Prince's Treasure exhibition. Running until autumn 2021, it showcases more than 120 previously unseen original objects from the Pavilion's collection.

Visitors longing for the great outdoors can look forward to experiencing the romantic landscapes of



Photo: Gunnar Ridderström

Seven Sisters Country Park. Part of the South Downs National Park, here couples can marvel at the sprawling white cliffs, winding waterways and unspoilt grasslands.

## Manchester's Gothic library and grand estate

Known for its impressive architecture, independent shops and trendy



Photo: Michael Beckwith

cafes, Manchester is no slouch when it comes to romance. Take John Rylands Library, a stunning building created by John Ryland's wife to honour her late husband, which was unveiled on their wedding anniversary. Founded on a love story, the library is full of whimsical stone carvings and marble statues. It features a historic reading room and is home to circa 250,000 books and more than a million manuscripts. Usually open seven days a week, couples can look forward to exploring this mesmerising space once restrictions are lifted.

Just 20 miles south of the city centre, visitors can dream of re-enacting some of Jane Austen's most romantic moments at Lyme Park, an Italianate palace that became Mr Darcy's grand residence in the BBC's adaptation of Pride and Prejudice. The 1,400-acre estate is home to

a large herd of deer, a lake and a fragrant rose garden. Austen fans can also enjoy an atmospheric Pemberley walk which takes in several picturesque filming locations.

## Cardiff's walks and vineyards

After marvelling at Cardiff's castle and medieval city walls, future visitors can arrange to visit Glyndwr Vineyard, the oldest in Wales and just under 20-miles away. Tours of the vineyard are available to book, complete with a romantic walk among the vines, a chance to spot the estate's llamas and a delicious country platter to finish. Those wishing to experience a more expansive landscape can dream of exploring the Cambrian Way. Starting from Cardiff Castle, this 'coast to

coast' walking trail covers 298 miles to the town of Conwy, travelling through



Photo: Benjamin Ranger

some of Wales' most scenic spots, high peaks and unspoilt landscapes.

## Keeping track of travel restrictions

Restrictions on travel to and around Britain are in place due to Covid-19. Visitors are encouraged to always check individual websites for the latest information, as details are subject to change.



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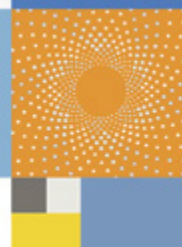


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EDUCATION

# STRENGTHENING FREE SPEECH AT UK UNIVERSITIES

Measures to strengthen free speech and academic freedom at universities in England have been announced by the Education Secretary today, to stamp out unlawful 'silencing' on campuses.

Following an increasing number of cases of individuals being silenced, the Education Secretary has warned of a 'chilling effect' where students and staff feel they cannot express themselves freely.

The proposed measures deliver on a manifesto commitment, and include a new free speech condition placed on higher education providers in order to be registered in England and access public funding. The regulator, the Office for Students, would have the power to impose sanctions, including financial penalties, for breaches of the condition.

The strengthened legal duties would also extend to Students Unions, which for the first time would have to take steps to ensure that lawful free speech is secured for their members and others, including visiting speakers.

In addition, a new legal measure would enable individuals to seek compensation through the courts if they suffer loss as a result of breach of the free speech duties – such as being expelled, dismissed or demoted.

"Free speech underpins our democratic society and our universities have a long and proud history of being places where students and academics can express themselves freely, challenge views and cultivate an open mind," said Education Secretary Gavin Williamson. "But I am deeply worried about the chilling effect on campuses of unacceptable silencing and censoring. That is why we must strengthen free speech in higher education, by bolstering the existing legal



Photo: Tatiana Shishkina

duties and ensuring strong, robust action is taken if these are breached."

Under the plans, the Education Secretary would also appoint a new Free Speech and Academic Freedom Champion to investigate potential infringements, such as no-platforming speakers or dismissal of academics, and higher education providers would be legally required to actively promote free speech.

The new Champion would be appointed to the board of the Office for Students and would be able to investigate potential infringements of the new registration condition on freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education. The registration condition would work alongside strengthened legal duties on free speech and academic freedom and the Champion would also be able to recommend that the Office for Students imposes fines.

The Government will continue to work alongside the sector on guidance and further research, and the

next steps for legislation will be set out in due course.

Tom Simpson, Associate Fellow at Policy Exchange, and an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy, at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, said: "This policy paper by the Department of Education is a very welcome step towards ensuring that viewpoint diversity is protected in British universities. As Cambridge University's recent Senate House vote shows, there is a substantial majority of academics who favour academic freedom. The problem, as Policy Exchange's research has explored, is that a very online culture allows the views of a minority to exert disproportionate influence on administrators, and to exert a chilling effect on other academics. Promoting a norm of political non-discrimination, and incentivising administrators to do what they are already legally obliged to do, is a crucial step towards ensuring a culture of free discourse in our universities."