British or English — <u>a Clash of</u> Personalities?

by Robin Das



English Matters 4

wealth, make-up and social status. For the first time white respondents* were asked whether they felt they were English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or

wealth | majątek, bogactwo make-up | kompozycja, skład

3 de rigueur ,də rɪ'gɜ:(r) | tu: modny, na czasie angle | tu: punkt widzenia, spojrzenie clear-cut | klarowny, jasny to force sb to do sth | zmusić kogoś do

zrobienia czegoś **tribe** | plemię, ród

blurry 'bl3:ri | nieostry, niewyraźny

homogeneous | jednorodny overwhelmingly | zdecydowanie to reveal that... | ujawniać, że...

as opposed to sth | w przeciwieństwie do czegoś

to tick sth | odhaczyć coś

compared to sth | w porównaniu do czegoś **long shot** | *tu:* mało prawdopodobne przedsięwzięcie, trudne przedsięwzięcie **resurgence** rɪ'sɜ:dʒəns | odrodzenie się,

ponowny wzrost

notion | pojęcie, wyobrażenie
to dub sth | nazywać coś

bleak | smętny, ponury

chilly | chłodny, zimny

4 outpost | bastion speckled | piegowaty

to push off | zmykać, wycofać się virtually | w zasadzie

free-for-all | ogólna bijatyka, wolna amerykanka

to ensue

ɪnˈsjuː | następować,

wywiązywać się

skirmish | potyczka, utarczka

lightning strike | uderzenie pioruna

to derive from sth | wywodzić się od czegoś

to hail from X | pochodzić z X

peninsula | półwysep
subsequently | później

to settle | osiedlać się

to interbreed with sb | skrzyżować się z kimś indigenous In'dIdʒənəs | autochtoniczny,

lokalny

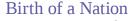
aptly | trafnie

scant | niewielki, skąpy, znikomy

tangible 'tændʒəbl | namacalny, dotykalny

British. While questions about ethnicnorthern outpost Britannia, taking the ity have been de rigueur since 1991, word 'British' from the Celtic word this angle was less clear-cut. It forced 'brit', meaning light-coloured or speckpeople to think about whether they saw led. After they pushed off, it was virtuthemselves as one of four distinct UK ally an open-house in Britain, and a bit tribes or part of a more blurry, homogeof a free-for-all ensued, with skirmishneous British picture. The English cenes and lightning strikes from Scandinavian neighbours. The name England sus results overwhelmingly revealed that there was a stronger feeling of an derives from the Germanic tribe the English identity as opposed to British-Angles, who hailed from the Angeln ness – more than 32 million ticked only peninsula in the Baltic sea, and who the English box, compared to just 10 subsequently settled and interbred with million who ticked only the British opthe indigenous population. During tion. With an independent Scotland

ne <u>indigenous</u> population. During the shadowy centuries that followed, <u>aptly</u> named the Dark Ages, as there is <u>scant tangible</u> evidence from this period, ▶



tion of Englishness?

a long shot this year, could we be

seeing a resurgence in the no-

So which came first, Britain or England? It was the Romans who dubbed their bleak, chilly,

* White respondents were also asked if they considered themselves to be non-UK white, a category that would have included most Polish respondents.

Words and phrases that collate or have a connection with either Britain or England in popular culture

errier zarram er zarbana an Popular eurene	
Britain/UK	England
Prehistoric	Albion (the mythical name for England)
Union Jack	St. George's Cross
The economy	The Bank of England (it serves the UK)
Colonies	Kings and queens
The British Bulldog	Mad dogs and Englishmen (a song)
Cities	Football
The Olympics (Team GB)	Quintessentially English
Stiff upper lip	Roast beef of olde England (an c18 poem)
The Great British banger	The Church of England
The BBC	

three distinct nations <u>emerged</u> – England, Scotland and Wales. In 1707, the United Kingdom came into being when England and Scotland were, politically speaking, joined at the hip.

Which Flag to Wave

The Union Jack is an amalgamation of the crosses of the knight Saint George, patron saint of England, Scotland's Saint Andrew and Ireland's Saint Patrick. The 'nineties saw a resurgence in the popularity of St. George's flag, driven by die-hard football supporters when the 1996 Euro Championships arrived in London. Football mania went into overdrive, and the nation collectively draped itself in the cross of St. George, as the English team came

within a whisker of making it into the final when up against arch-footballing foe Germany in the semis. Since then, St. George's flag has been part and parcel of a stadium's backdrop whenever the UK's sporting stars strut their stuff. These heroes range from the mixed-race, Olympic gold medallist sprinter Kelly Holmes romping home in the 800 metres, to scouser Steven Gerrard netting one for the English football team.

At first glance it seems an anomaly that Britain fields a Great Britain Olympic team and tennis players <u>compete</u> under a British banner, <u>yet</u> when it comes to most other sports the old tribal loyalties of English, Scot and Welsh still <u>prevail</u>. Why is this? Most team sports, notably football, rugby and cricket, competed as local associations

in the nineteenth century, which then grouped together under an English, Scottish or Welsh identity, and this has stuck. However, the moniker 'Home Nations' is often used for the English, Welsh and Scottish rugby teams when competing internationally, and this keeps a sense of we're still looking out for our buddies. To some extent, having several teams provides fans with a useful fall-back position should their home side get booted out of a tournament. In 1994, when England failed to qualify for the World Cup and the Republic of Ireland scraped through, overnight the true blue English were sporting shamrocks, and trading bitter for Guinness.

Is Englishness Only Skin Deep?

So if the census revealed that white people residing in England are more likely to identify themselves as English, how do ethnic minorities see themselves? Interestingly, government bods didn't give non-whites the chance to opt for the English tick-box, but only as a subsection of Black or Asian British. Their assumption that non-whites see themselves first and foremost as British does seem to be borne out by ethnic groups, as they tend to opt for being British over English when defining themselves. Not surprising then, that in the census the places where the majority of people saw themselves as British were in the inner London boroughs, where often more than half the

5 to emerge | wyłaniać się
joined at the hip | blisko powiązani
to wave | machać
amalgamation | połączenie
knight nart | rycerz
die-hard | zagorzały
championship | mistrzostwa
to go into overdrive | wejść na najwyższe obroty
to drape sth | przystrajać coś

6 within a whisker of sth | o włos od czegoś foe | wróg part and parcel | nieodłączna część, istotna część to be a backdrop to/for sth | stanowić tło dla czegoś to strut one's stuff | pokazać, co się potrafi
to romp home | wygrać z łatwością scouser | osoba pochodząca z Liverpoolu
to net sth | zgarniać coś (np. główną nagrodę)
to compete | współzawodniczyć
yet | tu: ale
to prevail | brać górę
moniker | przydomek, przezwisko
to look out for sb/sth | zwracać uwagę na
coś/kogoś
buddies | pot. bracia, kolesie

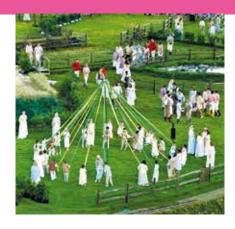
booted out | wykopany, wyrzucony
tournament | turniej
to scrape through | z trudem dawać sobie
radę, ledwie się przepchnąć
overnight | z dnia na dzień
shamrock | koniczyna
bitter | angielskie gorzkie piwo
skin deep | powierzchowny
likely | prawdopodobny
bod = body | pot. ciało; tu: organ
to opt for sth | wybierać coś
borne out | potwierdzony
not surprising | nic dziwnego
borough | gmina

to some extent | do pewnego stopnia

fall-back position | plan awaryjny

coś

connotation | konotacja



local population are non-UK white. The area which saw itself as the most English was Canvey Island in Essex, a <u>resolutely</u>, white, working-class <u>stronghold</u>.

'Britishness' suggests an urban grit, and the rough and ready, topsy-turvy world of the inner-cities. Here a vibrant, cosmopolitan blend of cultures and a broad range of tastes happily co-exist, rubbing up against each other. In Britain there's a sense that anyone who rocks up to the table will be able to find their place; broad-minded, tolerant and an anything-goes vibe. Being British is a flexible, catch-all adjective able to accommodate one and all.

On the other hand, Englishness does have <u>connotations</u> with lineage and <u>heritage stretching back</u> over time, the countryside and a pre-industrial era; concepts that, perhaps, post-war, colonial immigrants may not feel so <u>in tune with</u>. The term 'little Englander', has been <u>coined</u> to <u>refer to</u> someone who is anti-European, xenophobic and essentially

**Resolutely | zdecydowanie, całkowicie stronghold | bastion grit | tu:charakter rough and ready | prosty, niewyszukany topsy-turvy,topsi 'tɜ:vi | bez ładu i składu to rub up against sb/sth | ocierać się o kogoś/coś, wpadać na kogoś/coś to rock up | przybyć broad-minded | liberalny, o otwartym umyśle anything-goes | wszystko jest możliwe, wszystko wolno vibe | atmosfera to accommodate sth | tu:uwzględniać

8

So many names for the same place	
The United Kingdom of Great Britain	The political union of three nations, England, Wales and Scotland
The United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	Refers to the inclusion of Northern Ireland.
England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland	Each refers to the individual nations.
Republic of Ireland	A separate independent nation to the UK
The British Isles	All the geographic isles of the UK, including the Republic of Ireland, offshore islands, such as the Isle of Man, and Scottish isles.

conservative. A 'little Englander' will feel that, when it comes to immigration, 'enough's enough' and our island is being 'overrun' with 'Johnny Foreigner', we need to keep the pound, imperial measures and turn our backs on the EU.

The Garden of England

The term 'middle England', which has gained ground among politicians, is used as a handy badge for the hard-pressed middle classes who reside in the home counties surrounding London, such as Kent, known as the 'garden of England'. In their genteel, picturesque villages and towns Englishness is alive and kicking — tea on the lawn, warm beer, cricket, the village green and the country pub — quintessential ideas of what England stands for.

heritage | dziedzictwo, spuścizna to stretch back | ciągnąć się przez, sięgać czegoś

in tune with sth | przystawać do czegoś
coined | ukuty (np. termin)

to refer to sb/sth | odnosić się do kogoś/ czegoś

9 enough's enough | dość tego overrun | opanowany Johnny Foreigner | osoba mieszkająca w Wlk. Brytanii, która nie pochodzi z Wlk. Brytanii

to turn one's back on sb/sth | odwrócić się od kogoś/czegoś

to gain ground | zyskiwać poparcie, zyskiwać na popularności

At the Olympics opening ceremony it was England's <u>maypole</u> dancing green and pleasant land that Danny Boyle <u>evoked</u> before the Industrial Revolution erupted in the middle of it. <u>In recent years</u>, there's been a <u>grass roots</u> push to celebrate Englishness by making the 23 April, St. George's Day, a national public holiday. This is generally seen as a good idea, as it would reclaim the notion of Englishness as being for everyone who lives in England, <u>regardless of</u> colour or religion.

At the end of the day, just like the Union Jack itself, people are an <u>overlapping</u>, <u>merry blend of</u> more than one identity, and may that always continue to be true of the British.

handy | użyteczny, przydatny badge | plakietka, identyfikator hard-pressed | przyparty do muru to reside | mieszkać genteel | nobliwy, szacowny

alive and kicking | w doskonałej formie **to stand for sth** | oznaczać coś

to evoke | ozdobny słup, gaik
to evoke | przywoływać
in recent years | w ostatnich latach
grass roots | obywatelski, lokalny
regardless of sth | niezależnie od
czegoś

overlapping | zachodzący na siebie merry | wesoły, radosny blend of sth | mieszanka czegoś