

Tea and Sympathy – What Makes Britain Great

Tea and over-apologising are classic British traits

We have a love of queuing, weather and barbecuing in the rain

The full English Breakfast is one of our best exports

Being able to make a proper cup of tea and saying sorry too often are true signs of Britishness, according to a new study out today.

The research into our favourite traditions revealed that, as a nation, we pride ourselves on an eclectic mix of habits. Nearly half of us (47%) felt that talking about the weather was a real indication of being British, followed by an affection for queuing (33%), our unique sense of humour (29%) and barbecuing in the rain (13%). Whilst a quarter of us believe manners are still a British virtue, 19 per cent feel we've become a bunch of moaners and we're now better known for complaining than the famous 'stiff upper lip'.

When asked about the most popular character traits, more than a third (36%) believed we were a polite nation, closely followed by honest (28%) and hardworking (26%). More than a quarter had a less favourable view of the population, with 28 per cent believing we were unhealthy and lazy.

The English language was cited as the thing we were most proud of giving the world (23%), topping the list of exports which included Shakespeare, penicillin, the Royal Family, football and the full English breakfast.

The monarchy featured a number of times within the responses, with the Queen narrowly securing the vote as our favourite royal (26%), closely followed by Prince Harry (25%), Prince William (12%) and the Duchess of Cambridge (11%). The Royal family were also referenced as a key driver of inbound tourism with 29 per cent of people claiming they were the reason overseas visitors come to the UK.

Simon Norton at cottages.com which commissioned the research, said: "Although we often poke fun at ourselves, it's clear that as a nation we are distinctly proud of our traditions and the characteristics which define us as a country.

"When asked what were the best British landmarks, Stonehenge and the Lake District were the places we love the most, followed by Buckingham Palace. In addition to the monarchy, our history and culture were highlighted as the things which really 'sell' us as a place to visit. Perhaps given recent events it's a timely reminder that the UK has a lot to offer. These are the things which make Great Britain so unique and should be cherished and celebrated."

The term 'Great Britain' was first coined in 1474 as part of the marriage celebrations between English and Scottish royalty. Despite an unsettled 12 months, with a number of events causing much debate, more than half (57%) of those questioned believe Britain is still great.

2. Honest
3. Hardworking
4. Kind
5. Broadminded
6. Fair
7. Well educated
8. Unhealthy
9. Lazy
10. Narrowminded

Top British Exports

1. English language
2. Shakespeare
3. Penicillin
4. Our monarchy
5. Football
6. The Beatles
7. World Wide Web
8. Parliamentary democracy
9. Telephone
10. Full English breakfast

Best British sights:

1. Stonehenge
2. Lake District
3. Buckingham Palace
4. Big Ben
5. Edinburgh Castle
6. White Cliffs of Dover
7. Tower of London
8. London Eye
9. Windsor Castle
10. Ben Nevis

Top British Habits

1. Talking about the weather
2. Queuing
3. The art of tea-making
4. British sense of humour
5. Politeness, chivalry and manners
6. Saying sorry
7. Moaning
8. Getting drunk
9. Stiff upper lip
10. Barbecues in the rain

For more inspiration and to book your next UK break, visit <http://www.cottages.com/inspire-and-explore/iloveyouk>.

ENDS

Research carried out by Mortar London with 1000 respondents in January 2017.