

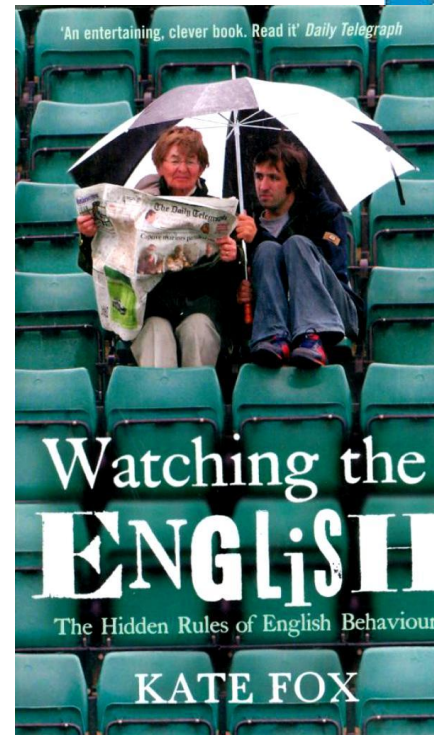
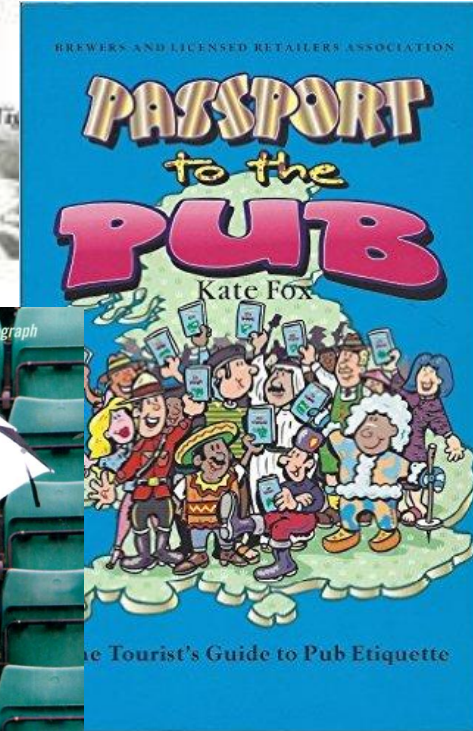
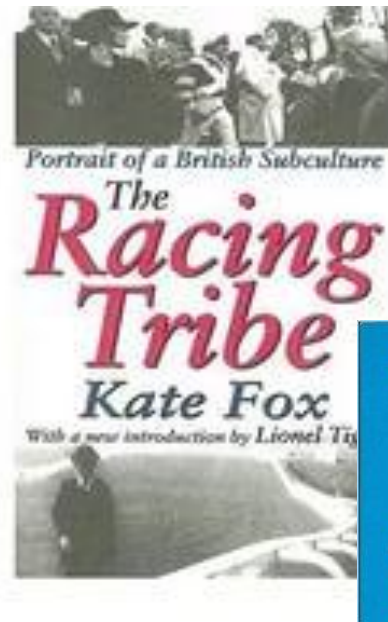


ENGLISHNESS



What kind of behaviour is it?

Does it still exist?



1. Why not “Britishness”?

“The answer is that I am searching and writing about Englishness rather than Britishness:

- Partly out of sheer laziness;
- Partly because England is a nation, and might reasonably be expected to have some sort of a distinctive national culture or character, whereas British is a purely political construct, composed of several nations with their own distinctive cultures;

1. Why not “Britishness”?

- Partly because there may be a great deal of overlap between those cultures, they are clearly *not* identical and should not be treated as such by being put together under “Britishness”.
- And finally because people, using the term “Britishness” almost always mean “Englishness”.

2. What is it?

- National identity
- The hidden, the unspoken rules of English behaviour
- The commonalities
- The unofficial codes of conduct which cut across class, age, sex, region, sub-cultures etc.

3. Class

A schoolteacher and an estate agent would both technically be 'middle class'. They might even both live in a terraced house, drive a Volvo, drink in the same pub and earn roughly the same annual income. But we judge social class in much more subtle and complex ways: *precisely* how you arrange, furnish and decorate your terraced house; not just the make of car you drive, but whether you wash it yourself on Sundays, take it to a car wash or rely on the English climate to sluice off the worst of the dirt for you. Similar fine distinctions are applied to exactly what, where, when, how and with whom you eat and drink; the words you use and how you pronounce them; where and how you shop; the clothes you wear; the pets you keep; how you spend your free time; the chat-up lines you use and so on.

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- Do you need it?
- Which of the subjects do you need?