

The Anglophile

May 2024



Islands around the English coast

The loveliest islands, big and small that surround England



EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear all,

Welcome to the May 2024 issue of The Anglophile.

Britain is an island surrounded by islands, and the English coastline has some wonderful places to explore – often just a few hundred yards off the mainland. So we've dedicated this issue to the islands around the English coast, starting with an introduction to some of the best known, or most notable, little bits of England.

We then spend a bit more time on the Isle of Wight, just across the water off the south coast, between Portsmouth and Southampton. It's a lovely place to visit, whether you have a couple of days or a bit longer, so we hope you'll enjoy getting to know it a bit better.

As usual, we have a quiz to see how much you know, and a gallery where we share some images of the huge variety of island life around the country.

This month's Great Figure from British History is a man whose military career inspired him to start an international movement enjoyed by young people all around the world – founder of the Scout Movement, Robert Baden-Powell.

Enjoy the issue.

Chris

ISLANDS OFF THE ENGLISH COAST

DOTTED AROUND THE COASTLINE ARE SOME WONDERFUL
SMALL ISLANDS TO EXPLORE



Brownsea Island

England is fringed by hundreds of miles of coastline that shifts from cliffs to coves, sand and shingle beaches to harbours, marshes and inlets. And you'll find dozens of islands, each with its own unique character, on a circuit of the country. From the tranquil retreats to the wildlife havens, these islands offer the chance to escape from the mainland bustle. Here we explore some of England's best known and best loved islands, so whether you love history, nature, serenity or drama, there will be an island for you.

BROWNSEA ISLAND

In the rippling waters of Poole Harbour in Dorset on the south coast, Brownsea Island stands as a sanctuary for nature enthusiasts. Accessible only by ferry, this haven boasts rich woodlands, luscious meadows, and an array of habitats, making it a prime spot for birdwatching and wildlife spotting.

Visitors to Brownsea can take a leisurely walk along its winding trails, immersing themselves in the island's serene atmosphere. Keep an eye out for the red squirrels that call this island home, along with a variety of bird species. The island's cafe, managed by the National Trust, is a good spot for lunch and refreshments.

The Needles lighthouse off the Isle of Wight



THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Just off the southern coast of England lies the picturesque Isle of Wight, steeped in history and natural beauty. Arrive on the island by ferry across the Solent from Portsmouth or Southampton. From the stunning cliffs of Alum Bay to the tranquil shores of Sandown Bay, the island's diverse landscapes offer something for every traveller.

History buffs will delight in exploring the island's historic landmarks, including Osborne House, Queen Victoria's beloved seaside retreat. Carisbrooke Castle is a dramatic medieval fortress with a storied history, while the traditional seaside town of Shanklin is definitely worth a visit, as is Alum Bay where you can look out to the dramatic coastal rock formations – the Needles.

LUNDY ISLAND

Head west to Lundy Island, an untouched paradise where wilderness meets tranquility. Accessible by ferry or helicopter, this remote outpost in the Bristol Channel boasts rugged cliffs, pristine beaches, and crystal-clear waters teeming with marine life including puffins and seals.

Whether you're hiking along the island's coastal paths, wild swimming in its chilly waters, or simply soaking in the breathtaking views, Lundy Island offers a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. You can stay in one of 23 unique properties, managed by The Landmark Trust.

ISLE OF SHEPPEY

Situated at the mouth of the Thames Estuary, just an hour's drive from London, the Isle of Sheppey with its unspoiled landscapes and rich maritime heritage. Away from the bustling commercial port and dockyard at Sheerness, you can explore the island's villages, meandering footpaths, and expansive marshlands, where an abundance of wildlife thrives.

Literature lovers will appreciate Sheppey's link to Charles Dickens, who drew inspiration from the island for several of his novels. Don't miss the chance to visit the historic town of Queenborough and explore its waterfront and castle mound.

SCILLY ISLES

Off the far southwestern coast of Cornwall lie the Isles of Scilly – an archipelago of dazzling beauty and tropical splendour. With sandy beaches, turquoise waters and subtropical gardens, this remote paradise feels like a world away from mainland England.

Explore the island's rich cultural heritage, from ancient archaeological sites to picturesque fishing villages, or simply unwind amidst the breathtaking scenery. With its mild climate and idyllic setting, the Scilly Isles offer the perfect escape for those seeking sun, sea, and serenity.



FARNE ISLANDS/ LINDISFARNE

In the far north, off the coast of Northumberland, the Farne Islands and nearby Lindisfarne beckon wildlife enthusiasts with their array of seabird colonies and marine life. Take a boat trip to the Farne Islands during the breeding season to witness the spectacle of thousands of puffins,

terns, and seals congregating on these rocky outcrops.

Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island, is steeped in history and legend, with its ancient monastery and dramatic castle ruins. Be sure to check the tide times before visiting, as the island is accessible via a causeway that is submerged at high tide.

Fun on the beach
at Hayling Island



The quay at Hugh Town on
St Mary's, Isles of Scilly



ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT

In the waters of Mount's Bay in Cornwall rises St Michael's Mount, a tidal island crowned by a medieval castle and subtropical gardens. Linked to the mainland by a causeway at low tide, the island offers visitors the chance to explore its historic castle, stroll through its lush gardens, and soak in panoramic views of the surrounding coastline.

With its rich history, stunning

Crossing the causeway to St Michael's Mount at low tide



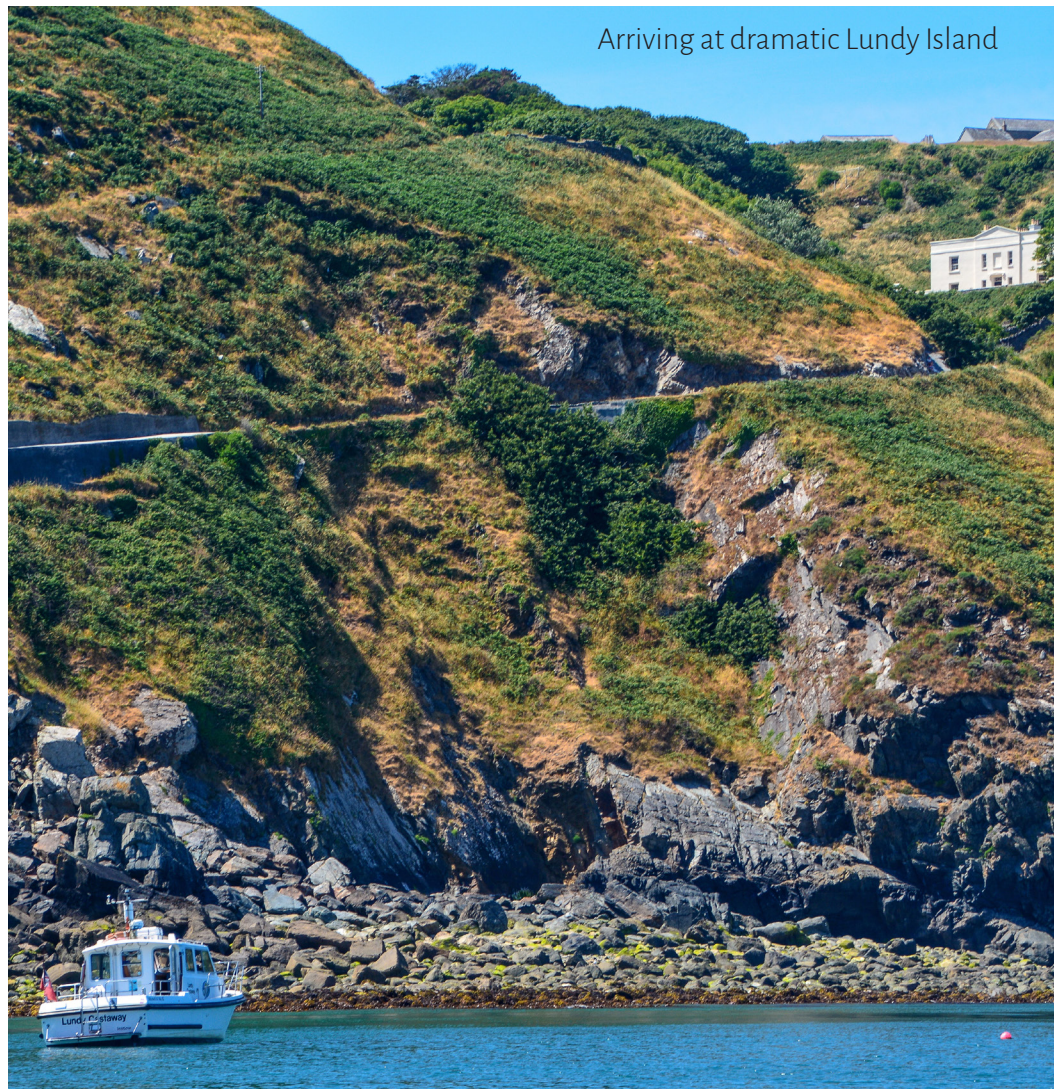
architecture, and picturesque setting, St Michael's Mount is a must-visit destination for anyone exploring the Cornish coast.

HAYLING ISLAND

Situated off the coast of Hampshire, just east of Portsmouth, Hayling Island offers a peaceful retreat for those seeking sun, sea, and sand. With miles of golden beaches, tranquil nature reserves, and a host of water sports activities this quaint island offers traditional seaside fun with something for everyone.

Lounge on the beach, cycle the scenic trails, fill up on fresh seafood at a seaside cafe, or set up for the day in a beach hut – Hayling Island promises a relaxing escape from the mainland hustle and bustle.

Arriving at dramatic Lundy Island





ENGLISH ISLANDS: THE QUIZ

How much do you know about the islands all around England? Answers on p16..

1. Which organisation manages the nature trails and cafe on Brownsea Island?
2. Which body of water lies between the Isle of Wight and the English mainland?
3. What's the name of the unusual rock formations off the Isle of Wight's western tip?
4. Which river estuary is home to the Isle of Sheppey
5. By what religious name is Lindisfarne also known?
6. What sort of structure links St Michael's Mount to the mainland?
7. What's the quickest way for passengers to reach the Isle of Wight by water?
8. How wide, in miles, is the Isle of Wight?
9. Which king was famously imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle?
10. Which animals are used to power the water wheel at Carisbrooke?
11. Which monarch spend their summers at Osborne House?
12. Which town is home to the Shipwreck Centre on the Isle of Wight?
13. Which river flows through Newport?
14. What sort of farm can you find at Sandown?
15. In what year was Robert Baden-Powell born?
16. In which war did Baden-Powell establish his reputation?
17. Which island became the spiritual home of the scout movement?
18. What's the name of Baden-Powell's famous book that inspired the scouts?
19. In which country did Baden-Powell die?
20. What's the motto of the scout movement?

Yacht racing in the
Isle of Wight



Minster Leas beach huts on
the Isle of Sheppey





St Michael's Mount



Jenny's Cove, Lundy Island



The Isles of Scilly



Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight



Arriving at Brownsea Island



Isle of Wight coastal path

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

LIKE ENGLAND IN MINIATURE

Viewed from the air, the Isle of Wight looks like a chunk of England's south coast has broken away from the mainland. Spanning just 23 miles from east to west, this compact island packs a punch when it comes to natural beauty and cultural attractions, with its stunning coastline, picturesque villages, and rich history. Whether you're seeking outdoor adventures, historical landmarks, or a relaxing rural escape, the Isle of Wight is well worth adding you your itinerary.

Enjoying the view from the esplanade



GETTING THERE AND GETTING AROUND

The Isle of Wight is easily accessible from the mainland via ferry or hovercraft. Crossings take anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour with the quickest



Cowes Marina

journey, the hovercraft service from Southsea to Ryde, providing a unique and exhilarating experience.

Once on the island, there's an extensive network of buses, trains, and cycle paths and there are plenty of a car and bicycle hire options. It's also a fantastic island for hiking, so why not lace up your boots and discover the island on foot?

THE OUTDOOR LIFE

Nature lovers are spoiled for choice. Head to the island's western tip to discover the iconic Needles – a series of chalk stacks that rise dramatically from the sea, marked by a lighthouse at the extreme tip. A stroll along the coastal path offers panoramic views of this natural wonder and the surrounding cliffs.

For a taste of island life, wander through the lush countryside of the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From rolling hills and wooded valleys to sandy beaches and rugged cliffs, this protected landscape offers

Quiz Answers: 1. The National Trust; 2. The Solent; 3. The Needles; 4. The Thames estuary; 5. Holy Island; 6. A causeway; 7. By hovercraft; 8. 23 miles; 9. King Charles I; 10. Donkeys 11. Queen Victoria; 12. Arreton; 13. The Medina; 14. A garlic farm; 15. 1857; 16. The 2nd Boer War; 17. Brownsea Island; 18. 'Scouting for Boys'; 19. Kenya; 20. Be Prepared

countless opportunities for outdoor sightseeing. One highlight is Compton Bay, with its fossil-rich shores and stunning sunsets.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

The island's heritage spans thousands of years of human occupation. Step back in time with a visit to Carisbrooke Castle, a medieval fortress steeped in history and once a prison for King Charles I. Climb the battlements for panoramic views of the island and explore the castle's unique exhibits, including the donkey-powered wheel used to draw water from the well.

Another must-visit attraction is Osborne House, the beloved summer residence of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The opulent interiors of this palatial estate are a sight to behold and there are some wonderful walks through the manicured gardens where you can imagine yourself as a royal guest at a grand reception.

VILLAGES AND TOWNS

For a small island, the Isle of Wight has more than its fair share of charming villages and coastal towns. Head to the bustling seaside resort

of Shanklin, with its sandy beach, seafront promenade, and quirky shops and cafes. Nearby, the enchanting Shanklin Old Village is a delight, with its thatched cottages and winding lanes that feel like a journey back in time.

Inland you'll find the picturesque village of Godshill, famed for its quaint thatched cottages, historic church, and traditional tea rooms serving delicious cream teas. Take a stroll through the village, admiring the floral displays and browsing the local craft shops for unique souvenirs.



Carisbrooke Castle gatehouse



The Isle of Wight from the ISS



Osborne House

CULTURAL SCENE

The Isle of Wight boasts a vibrant cultural offering, with museums, galleries, and performing arts venues to explore. Discover the island's maritime heritage at the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum in Arreton, where you can learn about the island's seafaring history and view artefacts recovered from shipwrecks around its shores.

Art enthusiasts are rewarded with the diverse collections on display at the Quay Arts Centre in Newport, housed in a converted 19th-century warehouse overlooking the River Medina. From contemporary paintings and sculptures to live performances and workshops, there's something to inspire and entertain visitors of all ages.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There's a growing culinary scene on the Isle of Wight which showcases the island's abundant natural resources

and thriving food culture. You'll find freshly caught seafood at several of the island's seafood restaurants, where you can find locally caught crab, lobster, and sea bass.

For a taste of the island's agricultural heritage, visit one of the many farm shops and markets dotted around the island, where you can buy locally grown produce, including fresh fruit, vegetables, and artisanal cheeses. Be sure to try the island's famous garlic, cultivated in the fertile soil of the Arreton Valley and celebrated at the annual Isle of Wight Garlic Festival. Sandown's Garlic Farm is a great place to visit.

From wild natural landscapes to ancient historic landmarks, charming villages and vibrant cultural and foodie scenes, the Isle of Wight can feel like a microcosm of a slightly bygone England. Big enough to merit a week-long break, but small enough to make a worthwhile weekend, if England's islands are on your visit list, the Isle of Wight should be near the top.

GREAT FIGURES FROM BRITISH HISTORY

ROBERT BADEN-POWELL

FROM MILITARY HERO TO SCOUTING PIONEER

From a young officer in the British army to the founder of one of the largest youth organisations on the planet, Robert Baden-Powell's life was one of courage, resilience, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to service.

Born in London in 1857, the son of a university professor and clergyman, his father died when he was just three years old – young Robert was raised by his mother, Henrietta.

Baden-Powell's military career began in 1876 when he joined the British Army as a subaltern in the 13th Hussars. His early years in the military saw him serving in various assignments, including stints in India and Africa, where he gained invaluable experience in reconnaissance, tracking, and survival skills. These experiences not only honed his military skills but also laid the foundation for his later endeavours in youth development and outdoor education.

He rose quickly through the ranks, becoming the youngest colonel in the British Army, but it was Baden-Powell's leadership during the Siege of Mafeking in South Africa during the Second Boer War (1899-1902) that

established his reputation and catapulted him to national fame. As the commander of the garrison at Mafeking, Baden-Powell successfully defended the town against a 217-day siege by Boer forces.

Following his exploits in Mafeking, Baden-Powell turned his attention towards the education and training of young boys, drawing on his military background and his passion for outdoor adventure, and his expertise in military scouting – his book, 'Aids to Scouting', was a bestseller.

Rewriting the book for a younger audience, in the summer of 1907, he organised an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, off the southern coast of England, bringing together 22 boys from diverse backgrounds to partake in various outdoor activities.

The Brownsea Island experiment served as the catalyst for the creation of the Scout Movement, as Baden-Powell



Wells

Wells
1860
1862



At Baden-Powell's stone, Brownsea Island

observed the transformative power of outdoor experiences in character development and leadership skills in young people. Inspired by the success of the camp, he published 'Scouting for Boys' in 1908, outlining the principles of scouting and laying the foundation for a global youth movement.

At the heart of the Scout Movement lies the Scout Law, a set of principles that guide scouts in their daily lives and interactions. Promoting values such as honesty, loyalty, and kindness, the Scout Law is designed to guide scouts on the path of righteousness and service to others. Baden-Powell believed that by internalising these values, scouts would not only become better individuals but also contribute positively to society. The scout motto is repeated around the world – Be Prepared.

From its humble beginnings in England, scouting grew into a worldwide phenomenon, with millions of members spanning every continent. Scout troops can be found in towns and cities, remote villages, and everywhere in between, united by a commitment to the principles of scouting.

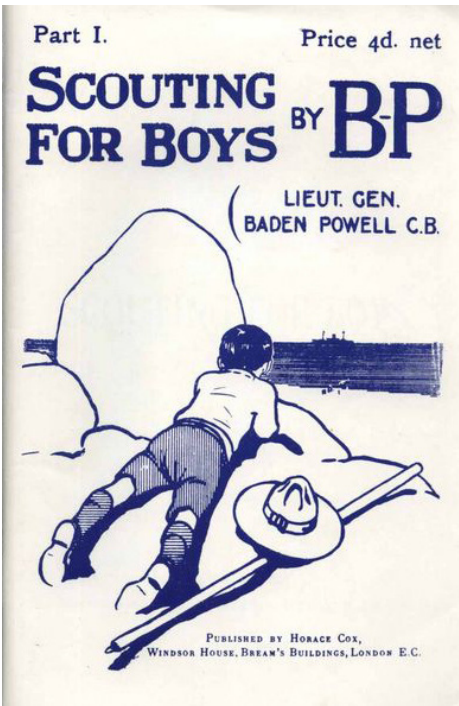
Baden-Powell believed in the transformative power of the outdoors in shaping young minds and instilling a sense of responsibility towards the



Scouts from around the world gather in India



Fun at an early Scout camp



natural world, and he advocated for the integration of outdoor activities into the scouting experience.

In addition to fostering outdoor skills and environmental awareness, the Scout Movement plays a crucial role in youth development by providing opportunities for personal growth and leadership



development. Through a progressive advancement system, scouts are encouraged to set goals, overcome challenges, and take on increasing levels of responsibility within their troops. From patrol leaders to senior scouts, the hierarchical structure of scouting empowers youth to develop leadership skills, teamwork abilities, and self-confidence.

Robert Baden-Powell's legacy continues to inspire millions of scouts around the world to this day, as they carry forward the torch of the Scout Movement into the 21st century.

Baden-Powell died in January 1941 at his home in Kenya. He had retired from public life four years earlier, when he published his final letter to his beloved scout movement, remembering the happiness of his life: 'Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one. But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best.'



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