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## The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 04-05-2008 11:48

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With Brown and Cameron already both promising that they will "listen, and learn from" the people of this country in what is now shaping up to become the most protracted general election campaign since Major v Blair in 1997, who are those people? What is "modern Britain", and who lives in it?

We clearly need to refine the Major stereotypes of women cycling home from church, and men drinking warm beer watching cricket on the village green, because those dreams of Mr Major no longer exist (even if, in truth, they ever did, when he had his "Good Life" vision of the country in the early 1990s).

There must however still be groups of people who make up our great and proud country, whom we would all recognise as ubiquitous to all towns and cities, from Wick to Weston-Super Mare, from Barry Island to Blackpool. But who are they?

I'd start with (from a mental walk around my village):

1. Groups of men in hi-viz jackets sat on wooden tables in pub beer gardens drinking lager
2. Young mums putting oven chips and mini-pizzas into trolleys at Asda
3. Men in their mid-thirties wearing jeans and pringle sweaters and still using hair gel, washing their mid-range hatchbacks on their drives on Sunday mornings

any more...?

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Zenits date with Satans - 04-05-2008 11:58

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Rog- Major's bicycling village greeners were already an advertiser's fantasy when the Kinks sang about them in the 60s. Or arguably, when Agatha Christie stereotyped them in the Body in the Library.

Your list could include any societal group celebrated by veteran Scouse folkies HMHB. This from their new record out last week,

King of hi-vis

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 04-05-2008 12:44

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People walking down the High Street with North Face clothing on. Out of breath and over weight.

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 04-05-2008 18:48

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By high-vis, do you mean the sort of thing that road construction workers, firemen and cops wear to be seen (bright tennis-ball yellow, bright orange, reflective strips, etc). Or do you mean some other sort of odd fashion statement? Girls in my junior high school (1985-1986) wore fluorescent colors, but that fad died pretty fast.

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 04-05-2008 22:30

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That is a pretty mental walk around your village, Rogin. What are your normal walks like?

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by trimster - 05-05-2008 05:51

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Pensioners, wearing kind of beige-coloured clothing, sitting in parked cars and staring vacantly out to sea- on the seafront at Seaford, or Eastbourne, or numerous other places along the coast.

I haven't been in Britain since 2002, mind you.....

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by The Purple Cow - 05-05-2008 09:54

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I couldn't do one for your villages, because it's too long since I've been there. But for my big village, the archetype is a woman in her late 30's or early '40's – about six feet tall with a big bum, solid thighs, and an incredibly short miniskirt - cycling through A'dam with a big kid on the back of the bike, a baby perched precariously in a seat above the handlebars, swerving and slaloming through traffic while speaking to a friend via a mobile phone that she holds in her left hand along with a roll-your-own fag.

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Mercedes Actros - 05-05-2008 11:50

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Groups of man - boy "businessmen", (though god knows what they do), looking out for the lash in foreign cites, wearing clone, unstylish and totally innapropriate suits. Loud and laughable.

And John Gaunt listeners.

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 05-05-2008 12:40

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They'd be yer estate agents and recruitment 'consultants' MA.

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by JtS - 06-05-2008 08:40

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People walking down the High Street with North Face clothing on. Out of breath and over weight

I'm overweight, and today I cycled into work, was breathing quite hard as I stopped at the lights by Farringdon and was wearing a North Face top.

Men in their mid-thirties wearing jeans and pringle sweaters and still using hair gel, washing their mid-range hatchbacks on their drives on Sunday mornings

I'll be 33 this year, in my pocket I have some hair gel, that I'm about to put in when I go to the loo. I almost wear jeans but have no pringle sweaters (I have Massimo Dutti sweaters, I have pringle socks). I have a mid-range hatchback but I rarely wash it.

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## Re:The \"This is Britain, 2008\" thread

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 06-05-2008 08:49

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Go and find a pub beer garden and have a pint of lager with some men wearing hi-viz jackets and cement-encrusted jeans.

Then you will, truly, be the everyman voter of the Asimov (? Clarke? Dick?) story, who we can just select to vote on all our behalfs.

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