

Celebrating the Counties on Social Media

Lockdown meant the cancellation of county shows and the scaling back of county day celebrations. However, it also saw the use of social media grow to become an important way for us to promote and celebrate the counties.

Keep up to date with ABC news on our Facebook ([@abcounties](#)) and Twitter ([@britishcounties](#)) accounts. Friends of Real Lancashire are very active on Facebook ([@FriendsofRealLancashire](#)) and Twitter ([@FORLancashire](#)). Yorkshire Ridings Society posts regularly on Facebook ([@propercounty](#)). County of Middlesex Heritage run a terrific Facebook Group ([@CountyofMiddlesex](#)) and Twitter account ([@MidDxHeritage](#)). Friends of Bedfordshire ([@FriendsofBeds](#)) and Monmouthshire Association ([@monassociation](#)) post on Twitter.



Bridge House, Ambleside from [@WestmorlandPics](#) on Facebook

County flags are widely promoted on social media. British County Flags is on Facebook ([@BritishCountyFlags](#)) and Twitter ([@britcoflags](#)). Facebook pages promote the flags for County Durham, Sussex ([@SussexFlag](#)), Glamorgan ([@GlamorganFlag](#)), Staffordshire ([@StaffordshireFlag](#)), Herefordshire ([@HerefordshireFlag](#)) and Warwickshire ([@WarwickshireFlag](#)), along with the proposed flags for Leicestershire ([@LeicestershireFlag](#)) and Brecknockshire ([@BrecknockshireFlag](#)). Twitter accounts promote the flags for Hampshire ([@FlagHampshire](#)), Norfolk ([@NorfolkFlag](#)), Suffolk ([@Suffolk_flag](#)) and the proposed Leicestershire ([@LeicsFlag](#)) and Montgomeryshire ([@montsflag](#)) flags.

County days have become huge events on Twitter. The most recent [#LancashireDay](#) and [#YorkshireDay](#) were the top trending subject for much of the county day, whilst [#NorfolkDay](#), [#SuffolkDay](#), [#DevonDay](#), [#SomersetDay](#), [#SussexDay](#) and [#WiltshireDay](#) also trend highly. Others, e.g. [#MiddlesexDay](#), [#DorsetDay](#) and [#SurreyDay](#), are growing each year.

Social media accounts cover all aspects of our counties: county-based sports; county shows; county history, family history, archaeological & record societies; county wildlife trusts. Social media has made visible this huge part of our national life based on the historic counties.

Some social media accounts are simply an unashamed celebration of a county, e.g. the excellent Lancashire Pics ([@LancashirePics](#)), Cumberland Pics ([@CumberlandPics](#)) and Westmorland Pics ([@WestmorlandPics](#)) Facebook pages, also on Twitter.

The use of social media to promote and celebrate our counties continues to grow and grow. Anyone can do it. It just requires enthusiasm.

Upcoming Events

13th September 2020

Rutland Day

22nd September 2020

Derbyshire Day

24th September 2020

Cumberland Day

25th September 2020

Monmouthshire Day

29th September 2020

Westmorland Day

1st October 2020

Lincolnshire Day

19th October 2020

Oxfordshire Day

25th October 2020

Northamptonshire Day

26th October 2020

Essex Day

27th November 2020

Lancashire Day

28th November 2020

Bedfordshire Day

All can be followed on Twitter using, for example, [#CumberlandDay](#)

ABC Online

[abcounties.com](#)

[facebook.com/abcounties](#)

[@britishcounties](#)



Only a small celebration of Yorkshire Day around the city walls in York was possible this year

County Flag Gallery



Sussex Flag at Saxon Cottage, Steyning



Monmouthshire and Brecknockshire flags on the border near Rhymney



Hampshire and Dorset flags at the border between Bournemouth and Poole



The proposed Leicestershire flag at the King Power Stadium before lockdown



East Lothian flag flying over Lammer Law



Caithness and Sutherland flags at the border

Clearing County Confusion

ABC believes that drawing a clear distinction between the historic counties and local government will be to the benefit of both. We want:

- An end to the use of the terms “county” and “county council” in local government terminology;
- An end to the unqualified use of historic county names by local authorities which have radically different areas to that county (e.g. Staffordshire County Council, Surrey County Council etc.).

The ongoing move towards unitary local government has seen a marked shift towards smaller local authorities which do not misuse a historic county name and which do not style themselves “County Council”. This spread of small unitary authorities also undermines the ability of the media to use local government as a basis for general-purpose geography.

This trend is set to continue. In April 2021, “Northamptonshire County Council” and the seven district councils are to be replaced with two unitary authorities, “North Northamptonshire Council” and “West Northamptonshire Council”. ABC has no issues with these names.

The Government has hinted that three “county councils” with particularly inappropriate names, i.e. Lancashire County Council, Somerset County Council and Cumbria County Council, could all soon be replaced by unitary local government. Government should follow the approach it has taken with the abolition of Northamptonshire County Council. New unitary authorities in these areas must be given names which do not make unqualified misuse of historic county names or take the style “county council”. An end to the fake “Lancashire” and the fake “Somerset” would be a huge boost to the identities of the counties whose names have been shamelessly misused for so many years.

Gazetteer of British Place Names Gets an Upgrade

Founded in 1997, our Gazetteer (gazetteer.org.uk) has been hugely influential in promoting the historic counties and the stable geography which they provide. In 2020 we gave the Gazetteer a major upgrade.

We modernised the user interface, improving the search options and making it fully compatible with mobile devices. A searchable map is provided. Each place can now be linked to its location on the map.

It now includes over 180,000 entries including settlements and areas; communities and civil parishes; geographical features (islands, mountains, lakes, woods etc); and heritage sites (hillforts, castles, historic houses etc).

It now provides full cross referencing between alternative names for the same place.

An ongoing programme is adding a short description and a photo to selected entries. If there is anything which you think could be improved do let us know.

Whitchurch, Herefordshire

[view on map](#)

Village in the Archenfield border area, placed in Herefordshire by the Laws in Wales Act 1535.



St Dubricius church

Type: Settlement

Alternative name(s): Llandwynnog

Historic County: Herefordshire

Lat, Long: 51.855145,-2.6534548

Grid Reference: S05517

Police Area: West Mercia

Unitary Authority: County of Herefordshire

Country: England