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Congratulations to this year's Best of British!

The winners of our competition, celebrating the best that Britain has to offer around the world, have finally been chosen by our panel of judges

FROM the shops that stock English tea, to the old-fashioned boozers that serve a proper roast on Sundays, British establishments across the globe are a lifeline to the thousands of expats who crave a taste of home.

With hundreds of new places nominated for our competition this year, picking the winners was anything but easy – but we hope our selection underlines the sterling work that British communities do all around the world.

BEST RESTAURANT

Winner: Farmers Gastropub, Springfield, Missouri, USA
Described by its nominator as "a little piece of Britain in the heart of America", this welcoming gastropub was highly commended in our last competition, and this year managed to scoop the prize for top restaurant. We imagine its 26 draught beers will be flowing freely to celebrate.

BEST SHOP

Winner: Delish Fine Foods, Upper Tantallon, Nova Scotia, Canada
Run by expats Linda and Denis Dineen, this popular shop keeps local Brits supplied with their favourite goodies from across the Pond, and even has a dedicated chef to turn out home-made treats such as Scotch eggs and meat pies. It's so good, you'll even find Canadians popping in.

BEST PUB/BAR

Winner: The Londoner, Xiamen, China
Customers don't have a bad word to say about this traditional British watering hole, which many describe as an oasis in the heart of frenetic Xiamen. We're not surprised at its popularity – not

only has it covered its roof in satellite dishes to provide the best sports programming possible, but also the owners hand out "Bloody Marys and complimentary bacon butties to the needy" on Sunday mornings.

BEST BUSINESS CLUB

Winner: The British Business Group Dubai & Northern Emirates, Dubai
Set up in 1997 to promote British business in the UAE, the BBG (as it's usually known) boasts over 1,500 members and holds around 80 events every year. Supporters say the networking opportunities it provides are "extensive" and that it is "unlike any other equivalent group for getting things done for its members".

BEST SOCIAL CLUB

Winner: The Club, Abu Dhabi
Abu Dhabi's The Club, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012, fought off the competition to retain its crown as best social club for the second year running. The Club has undergone a miraculous transformation over the years, from a tiny house without running water or mains electricity to a busy centre offering 13 bars and restaurants, 50 types of activity, a 15,000-book library and two private beaches. What more could an expat need?

BEST ACCOMMODATION

Winner: The Woodstocker Inn, Woodstock, Vermont, USA
A new award this year, the prize for best accommodation goes to the Woodstocker Inn, a British-run B&B that specialises in "being doily free and having no dried flowers or floral paper". Customers have a soft spot for its traditional English breakfasts – complete, of course, with Heinz baked beans.



BEST SPORTING CLUB

Winner: The Mad Dogs Cricket Club, Greenwich, USA
Another organisation which has won for the second year in a row, the Mad Dogs Cricket Club impressed the judges once more with its efforts to – in the words of one member – help "expats to meet people, acclimatise to the

States, and enjoy cricket in either friendly or competitive teams".

All the winning establishments will shortly be sent an engraved plaque commemorating their achievement.

We also expect to announce the names of the five voters,



The Telegraph



BEST OF BRITISH

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Some of the winners of the Best of British Awards 2011, clockwise from top left: The Woodstocker Inn, Vermont, USA; The Londoner pub in Xiamen, China; Farmers Gastropub, Missouri, USA; Mad Dogs Cricket Club, Greenwich, USA; The Club in Abu Dhabi; Delish Fine Foods, Nova Scotia, Canada



nominators or reviewers who have won an iPad2 very soon.

'The Telegraph' would like to offer thanks to our partner, Help For Heroes; to our sponsor, John Lewis, voted 'Britain's favourite retailer 2011', and now offering delivery to over 30 countries*

including Australia and the USA; and, of course, to all the readers who took part by nominating or voting for their favourite British establishments.

telegraph.co.uk/bestofbritish

*Verdict consumer satisfaction index



A tourist photographs frozen fountains in Trafalgar Square

Britain blanketed in snow as the big freeze grips Europe

By Patrick Sawyer

MUCH of Britain woke up to a blanket of snow on Sunday as heavy snowfall grounded planes and caused road and rail disruption.

Many motorway drivers were forced to spend the night in their cars as the snow brought traffic to a standstill. The Highways Agency urged motorists to take extra care on the roads.

Flurries fell over Scotland,

northern England and the Midlands last Saturday before moving down to London and East Anglia.

A third of Sunday's flights were axed at Heathrow Airport amid adverse weather conditions and the possibility of freezing fog. Some 350 flights – a third of the day's total – were called off at the airport last Saturday even before the forecast snow began to fall.

Stansted, Birmingham, Luton and Manchester

airports were forced to suspend operations for a period as snow piled up on the runways.

On the roads, motorists faced what the RAC described as a "dangerous cocktail of driving conditions" and were urged to stay at home.

Last Saturday saw the ice stretch across much of Britain, with skating on the Fens, ice-climbing on waterfalls in the Brecon Beacons, and the Pennines blanketed in snow.

The cold snap spread from Siberia and across eastern Europe. More than 220 people have died across the continent as a result, with Ukraine bearing the heaviest toll of 122 dead, including many who simply froze in the street.

Thousands have been trapped in mountain villages in Serbia, while in Italy, Venice's canals started freezing over and Rome had its heaviest snowfall for some 27 years.



A rare sight, as snow fills the Colosseum in Rome