

# Welcome Clive!

**Post by "Clive" of March 20, 2019 at 3:35 PM**

Cassius,

Where did you encounter these "stiff-upper-lipper" stoical English persons? Was it in the US?

Actually we are a mixed bunch. I did know a diagnosed paranoid-schizophrenic English person who said he was a "stoic". He used to try to argue with me about it. But he spent most of his childhood in British colonial Aden and Fiji and then came back to "grey, depressing, England" to be sent to an English 'public school', so he probably had a lot to put up with, one way and another. Sadly he died recently. I miss the talks that I used to have with him about Hellenistic philosophy and other topics.

I am not only "English", but I am descended from long lines of English rural folk, all from the county of Dorset, at least as far back as the 17th century. They were not Epicureans, some of them were Methodists, who could be a bit puritanical. One family member was transported to Botany Bay for being an early attempted trade unionist, then he was reprieved and came back to Dorset. Another was imprisoned in the Winchester Bridewell for poaching. So that might have been enough to make people stoical. But the family relatives who I remember were not really stoics.

After I was expelled from school, at a young age, for not being sufficiently "stiff-upper-lip", in 1966, just in time for the fabled "summer of love" (1967), I escaped from mono-cultural (at that time - apart from the 'beatniks' and the 'mods' and 'rockers' ) Dorset, and went to live in the multicultural, hippy-rastafarian, ghetto around the Ladbroke Grove area of London. There weren't many "stiff-upper-lippers" around there. I think that experience probably cured me of any residual "stiff-upper-lippism".

Since that time, Britain has become much more multi-cultural, anyway. But there is a fear, in some quarters, that we might sink back into more mono-cultural "stiff-upper-lippism", now that we are "brexiting".

I have never met another self-identified Epicurean person in Britain, Surely there must be some somewhere?

I didn't really encounter Epicureanism until much later. I first took notice of it after I saw two episodes of a popular philosophy series on British TV. One was about Montaigne and the other was about Epicureans. I think the thing that impressed me most (if I remember rightly) was when the presenter was filmed in the ruins of Oenoanda, saying, something like;- "Diogenes of Oenoanda had inscriptions, such as 'buying things will not make you happy', carved into the walls around the market place, and the fragments lay on the ground here for many centuries". That was when I decided that those Epicureans were probably on to something.