

“Some residents in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk have launched a tongue-in-cheek campaign to join the UK, because the city was founded by an industrialist from Wales, it appears.

"Donetsk residents! English brothers! The decisive moment has come!" says the online appeal (which makes no distinction between England and Wales), according to [Novosti Donbassa](#) website. The campaign appears to parody Crimea's recent referendum on joining Russia, which has resonated across eastern Ukraine.

The heavily industrialised city was established in the late 19th Century as a foundry run by [John Hughes](#), a native of Wales. Locals called him John Yuz, so the town was initially named Yuzovka.

"We demand a referendum on returning Yuzovka to its historical fold as part of the UK! Glory to John Hughes and his city! God save the Queen!" the campaign adds”.

To Whom It May Concern

Please find to follow the background information relevant to a decision to annex (hereinafter: reunite with) the city of Donetsk to Wales.

Important facts: Donetsk is the largest city in Ukraine’s largest mining and industrial region of Donbass (the belief that it is a corrupted English phrase “don’t be an ass” used a lot, presumably, by the Welsh founder of Donetsk Hughes, is yet to be verified). Mining has now more of an emotional, than economic, value and is heavily subsidized by the State. Most of the mines are closed, and those that are open are almost 2 miles deep, so by the time the miner reaches the bottom, he has to return back to the surface. Plus, there is almost no coal left. Still, the miners go down into the mines each day to keep themselves busy between football games (see Popular pastime below).

Political situation: tense, especially on weekends when there are no football games in town. Before the recent pro-Welsh demonstrations, the movement for reunification with Russia had been dominant. It is led by the so-called “babki”: old women who are nostalgic about the “good old Soviet times” when they had socialized medical care and could get artificial teeth for free. This group is to be treated with extreme caution. Though toothless, the babki can get violent and very dangerous, especially when their dearest values – the red flag and the Lenin monument in the central square - seem to be threatened. In the eventuality of the reunification with Wales, it will be important to consider their feelings (the NHS will be of great help) and restore, as appropriate, certain reassuring symbols of their past. One of them is the “obkom” - a communist party regional committee to which the babki had a habit of sending their complaints about corrupt authorities and cheating or drinking husbands (this should not become a costly affair since the complaints were seldom acted upon). More often than not, a mere waving with a red flag or the sound of Soviet military marches can have a soothing effect on them.

Population: no exact figure. Varies with a President of Ukraine: when a representative of the western part of the country is elected, a large portion of Donetsk inhabitants (called “the Donetsk” in the rest of Ukraine) goes to prison. Correspondingly, under the “eastern” Yanukovich the population has grown significantly.

Location: somewhere in the East of Ukraine. Important for decision makers: Ukraine is NOT in Russia, it is an independent country (so far). Also not to be confused with the UK (yet), which most foreigners do when they get introduced to Ukrainians abroad.

Language: surprisingly, it is not Russian (let alone Ukrainian, which is openly despised by the locals as the language of the fascists encroaching on their territory from the West). It is “Fenia”, a Russian-based prison slang with a limited vocabulary (approximately 75 words), which, nonetheless, does not impede the Donetsk’s ability to communicate effectively and express their demands at pro-Russian and, recently, at pro-Welsh meetings. One can expect this unique aptitude to brevity to ease the mastering of English and future assimilation after the reunification.

Popular pastime: besides mining, football. It is the essence of the local social life, if not life itself. The days when the home team “Shakhtar” (“Miner”) plays at one of the three stadiums in the city are real all-Donbass holidays. Members of the city elite wear their best to the games (police chiefs and the brass are in dress uniform, ladies – in evening dresses). At the entrance to the VIP section, they receive two 1-liter plastic bottles of beer each with roasted salted sunflower seeds (see Favorite snacks below) to consume during the game. The VIP section has a bullet-proof glass booth from where the richest oligarch of Ukraine, the real “Don” of Donetsk and the owner of Shakhtar - Renat Akmetov (see Living Icons below) – watches his team play. He cannot be too careful: his predecessor and business partner Alick the Greek was blown to pieces in a bomb explosion together with several dozens of the city elite members.

Favorite snack: roasted sunflower seeds. They are sold in the street at each and every corner by the babki in self-made paper packets (2 sizes: large and small). The Donetsk consume them incessantly, the resultant husks littering sidewalks and tram and bus stops (small price for the reunification, anyway).

Favorite drinks: vodka. In spite of the recent surge in beer production (owned by Renat) and sales, beer is still viewed by many as a non-alcoholic beverage. Still, pubs (pronounced by the locals “poobs”) are extremely popular for socializing and chasing shots of vodka with beer or drinking spiked beer. With its superior beers, Wales can offer a lot to enhance the “poobic” experience of the Donetsk. Beer is consumed mostly by teenagers who drink it in the streets, public transportation, as well as on the banks of the Donets and Bakhmutka rivers.

Icons: Lenin, Stalin, Putin, and, lately, Hughes, the latter being a sort of anomaly having no in-ending in the last name which would usually put Soviet (Russian) people in the trancelike state of eternal admiration. There is also a certain Artiom, an enigmatic figure who, supposedly, played an important role in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 (see also Landmarks below) and lived for some time in Australia.

Living icons (besides Putin): 1. Renat Akhmetov . This is the person the Donetsk literally look up to: when Shakhtar scores, all faces turn up to his bullet-proof booth, and

a murmur resonates in the stadium: “Look, Renat is happy, Renat is happy, Renat is happy...”.

2. Victor Yanukovich, or Vitya the Brute (Kham in Russian), the runaway President ousted from power and the country by the opposition (the fascists to the Donetsk) who had 2 (two) criminal convictions before becoming President. Currently, the Ukrainians are reconsidering the Constitution to reduce the requirement for a presidential candidate to just one prison sentence served.

Environment: virtually none. Most if not all metallurgical and chemical plants – the backbone of the economy – are still running with the heavily polluting equipment purchased by Hughes at the end of the 19th century. There is no vegetation worth mentioning, and many rivers originate on the premises of the plants and have very low H₂O content. One of them is the Bakhmutka with the water so thick that it hardly flows, and in which, according to observant teenagers who gather on its banks to drink beer, used condoms dissolve right before their eyes.

Landmarks: statue of the revolutionary Artiom. His colossal granite figure in the city center is dear to the hearts of all Donetsk inhabitants. Viewed from a certain point in profile, the middle finger on Artiom’s hand protruding from his side looks unmistakably like a penis in a half-erected state, which reinforces his determined and assertive stature. All visitors are taken by their proud hosts to the vantage point to view the statue. Another important monument unique to Donetsk is the statue of Lenin sitting in a chair on the second floor of the central railroad station. Before the mid-1950s, when the city was called Stalino, it had been the statue of Stalin. After the dictator died, his head was sawed off and replaced by Lenin’s one. The head turned out to be incongruously small but that did not seem to bother anyone. So, it has been sitting since then on the body clad in Stalin’s famous military tunic.

Note: in the case of reunification, the statue could be, if necessary, transformed, with similar minimal costs, into the statue of Hughes.

Conclusion

The author is convinced that the information above needs to be taken into account in any scenario of the reunification. The landmarks, values and icons enumerated in the paper need to be preserved at all cost, or – in the unlikely event of the total evacuation of Donetsk - moved to Wales, including the mines, the stadiums and the Bakhmutka river (where else would the Donetsk youngsters drink beer and watch condoms dissolve?) Not to mention the sunflower seeds.

If need be, the city could be renamed into Hugheston, and the region – into Donbassshire.