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The English at play

Simon Roberts' first book *Motherland*, published in 2007, also by Chris Boot, won great critical acclaim and the work was widely exhibited. The book represented the fruits of a year spent travelling through Russia with his large format camera recording the varied peoples of this vast country and identifying the thing that consistently bound them: a strong sense of

homeland and quiet national pride. This experience was to set him thinking about Englishness and his own attachment to England, and so began this latest project. Roberts set out with leisure as his thematic starting point: "Looking at leisure activities struck me as a thought-provoking way of exploring England's shifting cultural and national identity. They seem to say more about who we are than, for

Above: Skegness Beach, Lincolnshire, 12th August 2007. © Simon Roberts / Chris Boot Ltd

instance, what we do in the workplace... And landscape is an intrinsic part of these leisure activities." This excellent book deserves to be even more successful than his first.

We English, by Simon Roberts, is published by Chris Boot at £40, ISBN 978-1-905712-14-4.