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Campaign for an **E**nglish **P**arliament
The Voice of England

Think of England

Number 92 : June 2019



**Championing England
& Challenging Prejudice**

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Campaign for an English Parliament Aims, Principles and Policies.

We campaign for an English Parliament, meaning a parliament for the people of England, for whom England is their chosen or inherited home and who are legally entitled to vote.

We campaign for an English Parliament with powers at least as great as those of Scotland's, i.e. a Parliament and Executive (Government) that can make Acts (primary legislation) on the same domestic issues (e.g. health, welfare & education) that are devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

The CEP works with academics, business groups, trades unions, think tanks and the media to create the conditions whereby UK MPs see that there is no alternative to the re-establishment of the English Parliament.

The CEP is a pressure group. It is not a political party. It does not contest elections.

The CEP is not and will not be affiliated to or formally linked with any political party

Editorial: Since devolution matters that are domestic to the rest of the UK have been managed by the devolved administrations. Ironically, although England has no domestic administration separate from Westminster a



number of authorities are now labelled as if there were such an organization. However experience shows that the interests of these authorities lie not with England but with the British Government. Our traditions and countryside are under attack from these organizations that purport to relate to England.

While English villages greens are under threat of being covered in housing because of unsustainable population rises, our town centres are dying not least because of business rates. Business rates are devolved and the Scottish government encourages their small businesses to thrive in contrast to the UK government that controls us. In Scotland, properties with a valuation of up to £15,000 receive 100% relief and up £18,000 25% relief. However, in England, 100% relief is only available on a property with a rateable value of £12,000 or less. For properties with a rateable value of £12,001 to £15,000, the rate of relief goes down from 100% to 0%. Moreover the SNP made it their business to vote down extended Sunday trading in England after having extending it in Scotland!

The impact of Brexit on Scottish agriculture continues to exercise Westminster. Particularly "to manage agricultural policy in the UK and the devolved nations". The issue of England is blatantly ignored and our interests subsumed into those of the UK.

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Campaigning for England: Your chance to stand up for England. Support the Royal Society of St. George's event on Saturday, 13th July in Malmesbury to celebrate King Athelstan and the Unification of England in 927

Programme of Events

10:30am - Meet at Moravian Church (SN16 9AX) for tea, coffee and toilets

11:00am - Talk on Life of King Athelstan, by Prof. Sarah Foot (Oxford University)

12:30pm - 2-course lunch @ Old Bell Hotel in Malmesbury (Garden Room with views)

2:30pm - Memorial Service at the tomb of King Athelstan in Malmesbury Abbey

Tickets: £40

Contact the office by email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com or by telephone on 020 3225 5011.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE
125TH ANNIVERSARY

**Come celebrate
England's 'birth day'**

As part of the society's 125th Anniversary celebrations we recognise an anniversary of greater significance.

We have organised a day to remember the unification of our English nation on 12th July 927AD. This was the day when our country was first united under one king.

King Athelstan, the first King of England.

Our day of celebration will culminate with a service for King Athelstan in Malmesbury Abbey, near his tomb.

England is the oldest nation in Europe.
We believe England's birth day is worth celebrating

On 12th July 927 at Eamont Bridge in Cumbria, the then King of Anglo-Saxons, Athelstan took control of the Viking-ruled lands governed from York. From this day we see the creation of a unified England, whose borders closely resemble those of the current day.

From that point on King Athelstan surpassed the achievements of even his grandfather - Alfred the Great. Alfred had styled himself as King of the Anglo-Saxons, but by his death in 907 Athelstan was known as Rex Anglorum, the first ever King of the ENGLISH.

Alfred the Great's dream of a unified homeland for the English people became real under his grandson ENGLAND was united under one ruler, King Athelstan.

RSSG, PO Box 397, 020 8058 1115
Loughborough, LE11 9GN

Remembering England's past, looking to the future

Current English Affairs:

Our sanity depends on our parks, but their funding is in danger

10/5/ 2019, The Times: Richard Morrison:

Not many things are going well for the country at the moment, so let's celebrate one achievement. After decades of neglect, Highfields Park in Nottingham is magnificently restored. Its restoration was one of the last projects supported by a little-known but massively beneficial grants scheme called Parks for People. Run by what was then called the Heritage Lottery Fund.

That's all good news. Now for the alarm bells. After this year the Parks for People scheme will vanish. The National Lottery Heritage Fund, as it is now called, has "radically streamlined" the way it allocates money. For the next five years, ring-fenced projects such as Parks for People will disappear in favour of everybody competing for money from the same £1.2 billion pot.

Theoretically, there's no reason why parks shouldn't be successful in this scramble, since the Heritage Fund's new criteria place a substantial emphasis on supporting "landscapes and nature". However, there are two dangers. One is that because of the cuts to local-authority staff there are few people left in town halls (especially in deprived areas) with the time and expertise to write effective grant bids on behalf of local parks. The other is that the Heritage Fund has shifted the goalposts. In future, parks will get funding not to provide recreational opportunities for people, but to "support biodiversity" and other trendy ecological targets. That's clearly well-intentioned, but it won't help a community get the swings repaired in a children's playground.

To make matters more perilous, this comes at a time when local authorities are in financial meltdown, having lost 60 per cent of their funding in a decade. Like libraries, parks are deemed non-statutory, so maintenance budgets have been slashed everywhere. That collapse of local-government support has hitherto been partly offset by the Parks for People money, but will become increasingly and alarmingly visible. It's not true to say that central government has been blind to the danger of parks sliding back into dereliction. Two years ago an excellent House of Commons select committee report identified most of the problems, and three months ago some extra money was whistled up to address them.

The trouble is that the ideas explored thus far (such as hiring out parks for fairs and concerts, installing green-energy generators, attracting local sponsorship or assembling teams of volunteers to tend the flow-erbeds) paradoxically require well-resourced local authorities to initiate and co-ordinate them.

Mental health patients 'are put at risk by NHS postcode lottery'

14/5/ 2019, The Times: Tom Whipple. Science Editor

A postcode lottery for mental health services leaves vulnerable people in some regions struggling with little more than half the NHS funding of those in the best-resourced areas, according to research from the mental health charity Mind.

In Surrey Heartlands, one of the 44 NHS groupings that cover England, the average annual spend on mental health services per head of population is £124.48. In South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, which allocates more than any other region, it is £220.63.

Improving the treatment of people with psychiatric problems has been recognised as a priority for the

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NHS. In its recent long-term plan there was a pledge to put mental health provision on a level footing with physical health, with another £2.3 billion a year in spending to be allocated by 2023. A separate goal was for any investment elsewhere in the service to be matched in mental health, something that the NHS reports has been achieved in all areas.

Paul Farmer, chief executive of Mind, said that after years of underfunding, mental health provision was still in some ways a Cinderella service. “For lots of people, their experiences are still not parallel to those in physical health. There’s a big job still to be done. Even the ones spending the most are still not spending at the overall levels needed.” He said the findings showed that for those spending the least, the extra funds would not be enough to cover the gap and clinical commissioners needed to look at reconfiguring their budgets.

A spokesman for NHS **England** said: “Overall spending on mental health across the country has gone up year on year, and every local area is on track to meet the mental health investment standard: seeing an increasing number of people in good time.

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### **Autistic children are routinely restrained and drugged in care**

18/5/ 2019, The Times: Oliver Wright, Policy Editor | Greg Hurst, Social Affairs Editor

Autistic children as young ten are being detained and subjected to chemical and physical restraint hundreds of times a month, two reports say.

The continued inappropriate treatment of children with learning disabilities more than six years after Jeremy Hunt, when health secretary, pledged to end the “normalisation of cruelty” in parts of the care system had been revealed.



One report from the children’s commissioner reveals that in a single month last year 75 children were restrained 820 times, an average of 11 per child. In another report the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is expected to reveal children and adults being subjected to long periods of prolonged seclusion and segregation in secure and rehabilitation mental health wards. The CQC report was commissioned by Mr Hunt’s successor, Matt Hancock, after revelations of abuse in mental health institutions seven years after the Winterbourne View care home scandal.

Anne Longfield, the children’s commissioner, will outline how:

- Staff in mental health units used physical restraint on young patients 585 times in one month last year.
- There were another 115 incidents of chemical restraint recorded and 95 cases where children were placed in seclusion.
- Some 20 per cent of the children who were being restrained were under 14.

Inspectors visited units where children were detained and spoke to their relatives. They found some children had put on a great deal of weight due to poor diet and the side-effects of medication. Dental and eye checks had not been completed and one family told inspectors that their son had not been washed for six months while in hospital.

Mr Hancock ordered the CQC, which regulates health and social care services in **England**, to review the use of restrictive practices on in-patient wards and in residential care homes.

An NHS spokesman, said: “NHS staff are working closely with patients, families, councils and education services to get appropriate and high quality care to young people with challenging health needs as early as possible, investing in community care and avoiding the need for intensive inpatient treatment”.

**Case study:** The inquiry into the use of restraint, seclusion and segregation of people with autism, a learning disability or a mental illness was prompted by the detention of Bethany, then 17, in a cell-like room. An assessment had concluded that the hospital was not able to meet Bethany’s individual care needs and recommended that she be treated in the community with a high level of bespoke support, rather than as an in-patient, but attempts to discharge her broke down.

The council, which was legally responsible for Bethany because she was detained under the Mental Health Act as a potential risk to herself or others, claimed that it wanted to restrict the publication of information that could identify her. Her father then began legal proceedings against the council, NHS **England**, and St Andrew’s Healthcare.

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Elderly patients with progressive diseases see NHS funding withdrawn

The Telegraph, 25 /5/2019: Laura Donnelly, health editor

Vulnerable pensioners with progressive and crippling diseases are having NHS funding for their care withdrawn under cost-cutting measures.

An investigation by The Telegraph reveals that more than 7,000 patients whose care and nursing fees

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were covered by the health service have had their funding revoked since the “stealth cuts” were introduced. Under national rules, any patient with a significant health problem should have such fees paid in full - if the condition is deemed to be the main reason they need such help from the NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) fund. But investigations by the newspaper reveal that authorities are increasingly withdrawing previously agreed funding despite the fact most such cases will only worsen.



Freedom of Information (FOI) disclosures reveal a sharp rise in the percentage of patients who have seen funding reviewed - and subsequently withdrawn - leaving families facing bills of up to £100,000 a year. Experts said that in some cases funding was being withdrawn without the patient even being seen for an assessment. In 2017/18, 2,761 cases had funding revoked - an increase from 2,446 cases in 2015/16. In total, 7,250 people with illnesses and disabilities have lost the funding since 2015/16.

The findings come from 71 of **England's** 191 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) - meaning the full numbers affected are likely to be as much as three times greater. A handful of CCGs said there were some problems with the accuracy of their data.

It follows a concerted attempt by health officials to cut spending on the care - even though it is a legal right for tens of thousands of vulnerable pensioners. In 2016 NHS **England** set savings targets to reduce spending on such care by £855 million by 2020-21. NHS **England** documents submitted to the National Audit Office in 2017, setting out how savings could be made, say “reducing the number of people eligible for continuing healthcare and reducing the average cost of the CHC package” is key.

Investigations by the newspaper have already revealed that since then, the numbers found eligible have dropped sharply. The latest probe reveals an even greater increase in the number of patients who have seen funding reviewed - despite the fact most cases are progressive or terminal - and a sharp rise in cases where funding has been revoked.

Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK said “In a civilised society every older person who is ill and has high care costs as a result would receive the help they need as of right, without the need to battle with the authorities at the most difficult time of their life, when their end may also be near,” she said.

An NHS **England** spokesman said: “Spending on Continuing Healthcare is increasing and it is for clinical commissioning groups to manage assessments based on demand in their area.

Earlier this year, one man who spent two years battling for funding for fees for his mother wrote to the Health Secretary, accusing health authorities of unlawful conduct, in denying patients funding which was theirs by right. Retired Rear Admiral Philip Mathias, 60, only secured funding that his mother Joy, 88, was lawfully entitled to, for her care and treatment for Alzheimer's disease just hours before her death last September.

Jean Jarvis, 93, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, cancer and is in a wheelchair, has lived in a care home in Purley, Surrey for more than 10 years, with her fees covered by the NHS. But in January 2018 her daughter Gill was told the funding would be withdrawn, with just weeks' notice, and without her mother even undergoing a face-to-face assessment. She said: “She is much more frail now than she ever was, and yet they said they are now withdrawing the funding. She can't feed herself, and it takes three people to move her, I can't see how they can justify taking the funds.”

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### **New Forest commoners fight rising rents**

29/5/ 2019, The Times: Jack Malvern

The heathland of the New Forest is under threat, according to claims that Forestry **England** is undermining the rights of the people who maintain it. The 300 commoners, a group of people with ancient rights to graze ponies and cattle in the national park in Hampshire, say that the government agency has reneged on an agreement to keep rents low for those who look after 7,000 animals in the area.

Forestry **England** manages 65 properties in the park that are owned by the Crown and since last July it has put five of them up for rent on the open market.

For the past 27 years, the government has agreed that commoners, who are responsible for small groups of livestock in the New Forest, should not have to pay rent in excess of 15 per cent of their salaries.

However, Forestry **England** is currently offering one property for £1,450 per month, which would require a commoner to earn £116,000 per year. The average salary for the commoners is about £20,000.

Commoner Erika Dovey, 37, keeps ponies that help to graze the common, but said her family cannot live in the New Forest because of the “unaffordable” rents. Tony Hockley, chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association, said that the government body had advertised the properties at full market rates without properly seeking permission from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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"It is nothing short of disgraceful that a public body should act in this way," he said. "It is tragic that the crown holdings at the heart of the New Forest are now systematically being lost, and that a public body is not only defying ministerial policy but also pursuing a course of action that it knows can only cause lasting harm to this landscape."

Oliver Cook, 28, chairman of the New Forest Young Commoners Group, added: "I fear for where we will be in 50 years."

Bruce Rothnie, New Forest deputy surveyor for Forestry **England**, said that they understood the need for affordable housing in the New Forest but said that the previous agreement, known as the Illingworth Report, needed to be reviewed. He said that changing the agreement would include "consultation with interested parties in the New Forest and presenting the findings, with any suggested changes in our approach, to ministers for approval". Forestry **England** did not respond to a request to explain why it had increased rents on crown properties without undertaking a consultation or seeking government approval.

### Village Greens epitomise the rural idyll

Telegraph 31/5/19 Laura Freeman Comment

Last year, furiously homesick in Paris, I used to stomp the Tuileries on my morning walk. As I kicked the gravel, two poems - Edward Thomas's "Adlestrop" and Rupert Brooke's "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester" - would run in my head until they become one elegiac choral round. "And for that minute a blackbird sang/ Close by, and/ Stands the Church clock at ten to three? And is there honey still for tea?" In my fantasy, home was always a thatched cottage with wisteria over the eaves and a bay window over the village green. It was a symbol of home gleaned from poetry and a hundred hamlet-and-harvest-festival novels.



We know what we want from our villages: the holy-and-unholy trinity of church, pub and village green.

And, if we're lucky, a shop, a post office, a vet, a crime-fighting vicar, a brooding stranger at the Big House, a handsome woodcutter and the gentle thwack of leather on willow from the far field. Which is why the news that Cooper Estates a land and property developer, has been given permission to build on a village green in Wiltshire is so dismaying.

Britain's oldest national conservation body, the Open Spaces Society, which fights to protect our foot-paths, commons and village greens, has warned that the judgment puts at risk shared land across the country. New homes must go somewhere. But when it comes to the green belt, I would sooner see a golf course sacrificed to cement mixers than a village green.

When Kenneth Clark, later Lord Clark of *Civilisation*, was appointed to the Ministry of Information during WWII, he struggled at first to articulate "What we are fighting for!" Clark recalled: "My mind, on these occasions, was a blank. But in my mind's eye I had a clear vision of a small English town - halfway between a town and a village - Tetbury or Long Melford. "There it all was: the church, the three pubs, the inexplicable bend in the road... I used to think: 'That is what we are fighting for.' Clark's sentiments still strike a chord. So much has already been lost. The pub with boards in the windows, the Sunday services shared between three parishes, the milkman who lost his rounds to Ocado. Give up our greens and it'll be churchyards, bluebell woods and the stable yard next.

I am sustained by an imagined other life, bodied forth in Ravilious postcards and Mrs Gaskell novels, of foxgloved cottages, eggs by the gate and a cake baked for the cricket tea. If you know such a place, cherish and defend it to the last green blade of grass.

### Record number of GP surgeries close

Telegraph 31/5/19: By Henry Bodkin, - health correspondent

Hundreds of thousands of patients are losing their local doctors' surgeries with the number of closures reaching a high last year. Health bosses have warned that the bond between family doctors and their communities is breaking down as figures showed that 138 practices closed in 2018. Eighty-six per cent of these were smaller surgeries.

It came as NHS data showed there were 494 fewer fully qualified GPs in England in March compared with the same time last year; a drop of 1.3 per cent. This was despite a government pledge in 2016 to increase the number of primary care doctors by 5,000 by September next year.

Analysis of replies to Freedom of Information requests submitted to all local NHS areas in the UK by *Pulse*, the magazine for GPs, suggested 367,937 patients were displaced from their surgeries, last year, forcing them to make longer journeys to see a GP.

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Meanwhile, 31 of the 138 surgery closures happened as a result of mergers, affecting an estimated 161,126 patients. The campaign group GP Survival last night said mergers often amounted to "cover" for closures; An expanding patient population, driven by increasing numbers of elderly people with multiple conditions, has increased the workload on ' GPs, making the sector less attractive to potential recruits. While yesterday's official figures showed a rise in overall GP numbers this was inflated by those in training and not fully qualified. The number of practice staff has also been bolstered by increases in nurses and other non-doctor healthcare workers.

Dr Richard Vautrey, who chairs the British Medical Association's GP Committee said: 'These figures clearly show the increased pressure that practices have been under during the last decade. As the workload mounts, more doctors leave, and surgeries struggle to recruit new staff. "While there are many reasons why practices may close or merge - including when private providers hand back short-term contracts or realise that practices may not be financially viable - ongoing pressures will likely have played a significant role."

NHS **England** said that its 2017-18 financial year data for **England** showed a higher proportion of closures - 62 per cent - were due to mergers than the figure suggested by the Pulse data, which covered the whole U.K from January to December 2018. A spokesman said: "In **England** there were fewer practice closures and patient dispersals in 2017-18 compared with 2016-17 and we continue to support all general practices to help them thrive.

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### English politics:

#### **07 May 2019: Commons Select Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee**

Government responds to Committee's 'High streets and town centres in 2030' report  
The Committee's report set out a bold vision for the high street based on locally led strategies, developed with local communities and businesses , and reflective of evolving commercial and economic patterns.

**Key findings of the report:** High streets and town centres must adapt, transform and find a new focus in order to survive. Business rates are stacking the odds against high street retailers. The Government must initiate reforms to provide meaningful relief to high street retailers, including giving consideration to proposals for an online sales tax to level the playing field.

Achieving large-scale structural change will require intervention led by the local authority, in collaboration with business and local communities, backed by funding and new powers from central government. Local Plans are a key element of this. They must consider green space, leisure, arts and culture, health and social care services to create space that is the "intersection of human life and activity"

Retailers must accept the need to adapt and do more to offer what online cannot, focusing more on personal interactions and convenience. Landlords need to recognise the retail property market has changed and be more receptive to negotiating lease terms with retailers in financial difficulty – The Government should consider providing a conciliation service to facilitate negotiations between the parties.



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#### **10 May 2019: Commons Select Scottish Affairs Committee**

##### **Minister questioned on future of Scottish agriculture after Brexit**

In the final session of the Committee's inquiry into the future of Scottish agriculture, Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy gives evidence.

**A post-Brexit framework:** The Scottish Affairs Committee has been examining the implications of leaving the European Union for Scottish agriculture. After Brexit, the UK will cease to be bound by the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy, and a new UK wide framework agreement will need to be created to manage agricultural policy in the UK and the devolved nations.

The Committee has been exploring issues such as the consequences of agriculture powers returning from Brussels, the implications of the Agriculture Bill not giving powers to the Scottish government, shortages of agricultural workers in Scotland and the role science and technology can play in making farms more innovative.

**Scope of the session:** Following evidence sessions with academics with expertise in agriculture, farmers and growers, environmental groups and the operators of the government's agricultural seasonal workers pilot scheme, the Committee will now question the Scottish minister on the evidence that has been gathered. Topics likely to be covered include future financial support for Scottish farmers and crofters, the relationship between UK and Scottish agricultural policy after Brexit and how innovative technology can be used to accelerate the future potential of Scottish agriculture.

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DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2019 No. 0000: EDUCATION, ENGLAND

The Higher Education (Monetary Penalties and Refusal to Renew an Access and Participation Plan) (England) Regulations 2019: *Coming into force 1st August 2019*

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**30 May 2019: Commons Select Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee** look at impact of spending cuts in local government finance inquiry

**Purpose of the session:** The Committee will take evidence from local government representatives, including Lord Porter, Chair of the Local Government Association, on the impact of reductions in spending power over the last 10 years.

The session will examine how cuts to spending were achieved, whether through efficiencies or reductions in services. It will also look at distribution of cuts across different tiers of local government and the impact of funding mechanisms such as business rates retention.

The Committee will also explore how the system of local government finance could be improved, hearing from a group of local government think tanks.

The final panel will focus on local government spending on public health and the plans to replace the public health grant with retained business rates in April 2020.



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29 April 2019: Lords Select Constitution Committee holds its annual evidence session with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon David Gauke MP.

Possible questions: How are you working with the judiciary and the Judicial Appointments Commission to address the shortfall in the recruiting of quality judges?

Does the Ministry of Justice have sufficient funding to provide the resources the legal system needs to operate efficiently and effectively?

Are you concerned that criminal barristers are threatening to refuse to work for the Crown Prosecution Service due to the level of fees they receive? What steps are you taking to address this?

Recent data from the Legal Aid Agency has shown that parts of **England** and Wales have little or no provision for housing legal aid services. What assessment have you made of the situation and what action are you taking to address it?

The 2017 Queen's Speech said that "Legislation will also be introduced to modernise the courts system". What legislation is necessary to reform and modernise the courts and when do you expect to make progress with it?

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**England's hero:** Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle

, OM, KBE, CB, FRS, FRAeS (1 June 1907 – 9 August 1996) was an English Royal Air Force officer. He is credited with single-handedly inventing the turbojet engine. A patent was submitted by Maxime Guillaume in 1921 for a similar invention; however, this was technically unfeasible at the time. Whittle's jet engines were developed some years earlier than those of Germany's Hans von Ohain who was the designer of the first operational turbojet engine.

Whittle was born in a terraced house in Coventry. When he was nine years old, the family moved to the nearby town of Royal Leamington Spa where his father, a highly inventive practical engineer and mechanic, purchased the Leamington Valve and Piston Ring Company, which comprised a few lathes and other tools and a single-cylinder gas engine, on which Whittle became an expert.

He quickly developed practical engineering skills while helping in his father's workshop, and at the age of 15, determined to be a pilot, Whittle applied to join the RAF.

In January 1923, having passed the RAF entrance examination with a high mark, Whittle reported to RAF Halton as an Aircraft Apprentice. He lasted only two days: just five feet tall and with a small chest measurement, he failed the medical. He failed again six months later, when he was told that he could not be given a second chance, despite having added three inches to his height and chest. Undeterred, he applied again under an assumed name and this time he passed the physical and, in September that year, 364365

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Boy Whittle, was accepted and sent to No. 2 School of Technical Training to join No 1 Squadron of Cranwell Aircraft Apprentices. His academic and practical abilities earned him a place on the officer training course at Cranwell and he became an accomplished pilot. Whittle decided to write his thesis there on potential aircraft design developments, notably flight at high altitudes and speeds over 500 mph. He showed that incremental improvements in existing propeller engines were unlikely to make such flight routine. Instead he described what is today referred to as a motorjet; a motor using a conventional piston engine to provide compressed air to a combustion chamber whose exhaust was used directly for thrust – essentially an afterburner attached to a propeller engine. This was fundamental concept that led to the creation of the turbojet engine. Earlier, in July 1926, A. A. Griffith (another English engineer) had published a paper on compressors and turbines, which he had been studying at the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE). He showed that by giving the compressor blades an aerofoil-shaped cross-section their efficiency could be dramatically improved

Whittle, at the behest of a friend, patented his idea in 1930 but was unable to afford the fees to retain his ownership. However with two other friends and funds from an investment bank he was able to pursue the development of his design in 1936 provided it did not take more than 6 hours away from his duties as an RAF officer. Work progressed quickly. By the end of the year the prototype detail design was finalised and parts for it were well on their way to being completed, all within the original budget. However, by 1936, Germany had also started working on jet engines (Herbert A. Wagner at Junkers and Hans von Ohain at Heinkel) and, although they too had difficulty overcoming conservatism, the German Ministry of Aviation, ironically, was more supportive than their British counterpart.

The Whittle engine ran successfully on 12 April 1937. It was pronounced it streaks ahead of any other advanced engine and managed to interest the Air Ministry enough funds to develop of a flyable version. However, it was a year before the funds were made available, greatly delaying development. These delays and the lack of funding slowed the project. In Germany, work had started work on a prototype in 1935, and by this time building the world's first flyable Jet aircraft, had started. There is little doubt that Whittle's efforts would have been at the same level or even more advanced had the Air Ministry taken a greater interest in the design.

The prototype Meteor airframe took to the air on 12 June 1943. Production versions of the engine started rolling off the line in October. Despite lengthy delays in their own programme, the Luftwaffe beat the British efforts into the air by nine months. Germany's Me 262s shot down 542 or more allied planes. Whittle was sent to Boston, Massachusetts in mid-1942 to help the General Electric jet programme. GE, the primary supplier of turbochargers in the U.S., was well suited to starting jet production quickly. A combination of the W.2B design and a simple airframe from Bell Aircraft flew in autumn of 1942, six months before the flight of the British Gloster Meteor.



England's history: Saint Boniface was martyred in Frisia 5 June 754 AD.

He was born Winfrid (also spelled Winifred, Wynfrith, Winfrith or Wynfryth) in c. 675 in the Devon town of Crediton, England and was a leading figure in the Anglo-Saxon mission to the Germanic parts of the Frankish Empire during the 8th century. He was martyred in Frisia in 754, along with 52 others, and his remains were returned to Fulda, where they rest in a sarcophagus which became a site of pilgrimage. Boniface's life and death as well as his work became widely known, there being a wealth of material available—a number of *vitae*, especially the near-contemporary *Vita Bonifatii auctore Willibaldi*, legal documents, possibly some sermons, and above all his correspondence. He became the patron saint of Germania, known as the "Apostle of the Germans".

The earliest Bonifacian *vita*, Willibald's, does not mention his place of birth but says that at an early age he attended a monastery ruled by Abbot Wulfhard in *escanastre*, or *Examchester*, which seems to denote Exeter, nothing else is known of it outside the Bonifacian *vitae*. This monastery is believed to have occupied the site of the Church of St Mary Major in the City of Exeter, demolished in 1971, next to which was later built Exeter Cathedral.

According to the *vitae*, Winfrid was of a respected and prosperous family. Against his father's wishes he devoted himself at an early age to the monastic life. He re-



Fulda Sacramentary, Saint Boniface baptizing (top) and being martyred (bottom)

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ceived further theological training in the Benedictine monastery and minster of Nhutscele (Nursling), not far from Winchester, which under the direction of abbot Winbert had grown into an industrious centre of learning in the tradition of Aldhelm. Winfrid taught in the abbey school and at the age of 30 became a priest. While little is known about Nursling outside of Boniface's *vitae*, it seems clear that the library there was significant. In order to supply Boniface with the materials he needed, it would have contained works by Donatus, Priscian, Isidore and many others. Around 716, when his abbot Wynberth of Nursling died, he was invited (or expected) to assume his position—it is possible that they were related, and the practice of hereditary right among the early Anglo-Saxons would affirm this. Winfrid, however, declined the position and in 716 set out on a missionary expedition to Frisia.

He traveled to Utrecht, where Willibrord, the "Apostle of the Frisians," had been working since the 690s. He spent a year with Willibrord, preaching in the countryside, but their efforts were frustrated by the war then being carried on between Charles Martel and Radbod, King of the Frisians. Willibrord fled to the abbey he had founded in Echternach (in modern-day Luxembourg) while Boniface returned to Nursling.

He returned to the continent the next year and went straight to Rome, where Pope Gregory II renamed him "Boniface", after the (legendary) fourth-century martyr Boniface of Tarsus, and appointed him missionary bishop for Germania. He would never return to England, though he remained in correspondence with his countrymen and kinfolk throughout his life.

According to the *vitae* Boniface felled the Donar Oak, near the present-day town of Fritzlar in northern Hesse. When the god did not strike him down, the people were amazed and converted to Christianity. He built a chapel dedicated to Saint Peter from its wood at the site—the chapel was the beginning of the monastery in Fritzlar. According to Willibald, Boniface later had a church with an attached monastery built in Fritzlar, on the site of the chapel previously built.

The support of the Frankish mayors of the palace (*maior domos*), and later the early Pippinid and Carolingian rulers, was essential for Boniface's work. He had been under the protection of Charles Martel from 723 on. The Christian Frankish leaders desired to defeat their rival power, the non-Christian Saxons, and to incorporate the Saxon lands into their own growing empire. Boniface's campaign of destruction of indigenous Germanic pagan sites may have benefited the Franks in their campaign against the Saxons. In 742, one of his disciples, Sturm (also known as Sturmi, or Sturmius), founded the abbey of Fulda not far from Boniface's earlier missionary outpost at Fritzlar. Although Sturm was the founding abbot of Fulda, Boniface was very involved in the foundation.

According to the *vitae*, Boniface had never relinquished his hope of converting the Frisians, and in 754 he set out with a retinue for Frisia. He baptized a great number and summoned a general meeting for confirmation at a place not far from Dokkum, between Franeker and Groningen. Instead of his converts, however, a group of armed robbers appeared who slew the aged archbishop. The *vitae* mention that Boniface persuaded his comrades to lay down their arms: "Cease fighting. Lay down your arms, for we are told in Scripture not to render evil for good but to overcome evil by good."

Having killed Boniface and his company, the Frisian bandits ransacked their possessions but found that the company's luggage did not contain the riches they had hoped for: "they broke open the chests containing the books and found, to their dismay, that they held manuscripts instead of gold vessels, pages of sacred texts instead of silver plates." They attempted to destroy these books, the earliest *vita* already says, and this account underlies the status of the *Ragyndrudis Codex*, now held as a Bonifacian relic in Fulda, and supposedly one of three books found on the field by the Christians who inspected it afterward. Of those three books, the *Ragyndrudis Codex* shows incisions that could have been made by sword or axe; its story appears confirmed in the Utrecht hagiography, the *Vita altera*, which reports that an eye-witness saw that the saint at the moment of death held up a gospel as spiritual protection.

Boniface's remains were moved from the Frisian countryside to Utrecht, and then to Mainz. His remains were eventually buried in the abbey church of Fulda after resting for some time in Utrecht, and they are entombed within a shrine beneath the high altar of Fulda Cathedral, previously the abbey church.

The three roles Boniface played that made him "one of the truly outstanding creators of the first Europe, as the apostle of Germania, reformer of the Frankish church, and the chief fomentor of the alliance between the papacy and the Carolingian family." Through his efforts to reorganize and regulate the Frankish church, he helped shape the Latin Church in Europe, and many of the dioceses he proposed remain today. After his martyrdom, he was quickly hailed as a saint in Fulda and other areas in Germania and in England.



Nailhole in the *Ragyndrudis Codex*

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English culture: The **Elder Mother** is an elder-guarding being in English as the Lincolnshire names **Old Lady** and **Old Girl**.

Folklore related to elder trees is extensive and can vary according to region. In some myths, the elder tree is thought to ward off evil and give protection from witches, while other beliefs say that witches often congregate under the plant, especially when it is full of fruit. If an elder tree was cut down, a spirit known as the Elder Mother would be released and take her revenge. The tree could only safely be cut while chanting a rhyme to the Elder Mother.



The Elder Mother is thought to be the guardian of the elder trees, and it was said, until recent times in various parts of England and Scandinavia that to take wood from the elder tree one would have to ask the Elder Mother first, or else ill luck would befall the woodsman. The woodsman would have to ask the Elder Mother like so: "Old girl, give me some of thy wood and I will give thee some of mine when I grow into a tree."

One such story of the Elder Mother's revenge concerns a writer earlier in the 20th century. When calling in on the mother of a sick child, the mother told him: "It were all along of my maister's thick 'ead. It were in this 'ow't' rocker comed off t'cradle, and he hadn't no more gumption than to mak' a new 'un out on illerwood (elder wood) without axing the Old Lady's leave, and in course she didn't like that, and she came and pinched the wean that outrageous he were a'most black in t' face; but I bashed un off, and putten an eshen on, and the wean is gallus as owt agin."

Another tale, from Somerset, casts the Elder Mother as the villain, a witch that a farmer sees as an elder milking his cow. The farmer shoots at the witch with a silver bullet but misses and is chased back into the farmhouse. The old granny, however, picks up the burning coal from the fire with a shovel and throws it at the elder tree, burning cinders, and thus the witch is dead.

A tale from Northamptonshire tells of man who cut a stick from an elder, and saw that the tree was bleeding. Later he meets the local witch and sees that she has a bloodied bandage on her arm.

Another tale not only has the elder-tree witch (sometimes later claimed to be various famous characters such as Mother Shipton) as the somewhat dubious heroine, but also with saving England from being conquered by a king and his knights (sometimes said to be Danes). This is also the story of how the Rollright Stones that lie on the border between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire came to be. When the king and his knights marched towards Long Compton they came upon a witch who told the king:

"Seven long strides thou shalt take,
And if Long Compton thou shalt see,
King of England thou shalt be."

The king however went onwards saying:

"Stick, stock, stone
As King of England I shall be known."

However, on the King's seventh stride a hill rose up before Long Compton making him unable to see the town. The witch was there again with her chant:

"As Long Compton thou canst not see
King of England thou shalt not be.

Rise up stick and stand still stone

For King of England thou shalt be none;

Thou and thy men hoar stones shall be

And I myself an eldern tree."

And thus the king and his knights were turned to stone and the witch turned herself into an elder tree.

Promotion: Elderberry tree products

Latin Name: *Sambucus nigra*

Common Name: elderberry, sweet or wild elder. The genus occurs in temperate to subtropical regions of the world. More widespread in the Northern Hemisphere, its Southern Hemisphere occurrence is restricted to parts of Australasia and South America. Many species are widely cultivated for their ornamental leaves, flowers and fruit. From delicious elderberry jams, wines, and pies to an effective and natural way to fight the flu, the elderberry is a very beneficial plant.

It is thought the name elder comes the Anglo-saxon 'aeld', meaning fire, because the hollow stems were used as bellows to blow air into the centre of a fire.



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The elderberry is very popular and grows as well in the garden as in the wild. It is an excellent tree that will attract wildlife to the garden and the flowers and berries can be harvested for a variety of uses. Elderberry trees enjoy moist, well-drained soil and plenty of sun. Native species of elderberry are often planted by people wishing to support native butterfly and bird species. It is a wonderful addition to any edible garden and also grows plentifully in the wild, particularly along river banks. It can grow as tall as 20 feet. It often grows in a shrub-like cluster of stems though some varieties are smaller and single-stemmed. Ornamental varieties of *Sambucus* are grown in gardens for their showy flowers, fruits and lacy foliage. In the spring, the fragrant flowers bloom in small clusters and are a waxy white colour.

The elderberry has many uses but it also comes with some risks. The elderberry flower and berries are known to cause an allergic reaction in some people. Elderberry fruits that are not completely ripened should never be harvested. The immature fruits are poisonous and can cause nausea. For the same reason, it is advisable to cook the berries rather than consuming them raw.

The flowers and berries from the elderberry can be harvested for use. The flowers of the elderberry tree should be harvested once the entire cluster has opened. Simply snip off the entire cluster of blooms. The berries will be ready to harvest when they are a rich, dark purple/black. They should also be slightly soft. One of the best-known uses of elderberry is for fighting the flu. The berries contain compounds that keep the flu virus from attaching to the body's cells, so it can shorten the duration of the illness and possibly lessen its severity. Elderberries make a wonderfully tasty remedy. They can be used fresh or dried to make a sweet elderberry syrup or a semi-sweet tincture. The berries can also be used to make a fruity jam or even a delicious pie.

The intense fragrance of the elderberry flower is very relaxing and can be added to a calming potpourri mix. The flowers can be used to make a tea, liqueur, or wine as well.

New varieties of *Sambucus* (elderberry) are being bred for scent for the cordial market by Edmund Brown, the national collection holder of *Sambucus* including 116 named varieties from all over the world and co-owner of Cotswold Garden Flowers.

Belvoir Fruit Farms, Leicestershire, have got over 90 acres dedicated to growing organic elderflowers. They are the only commercial growers in the country. They are also the only drinks company in the UK that puts its own, home-grown elderflowers into its cordials. They like to think that their elderflower drinks are a taste of the English summer in a glass.

Recipe: Elderflower Cordial

Out under a blue sky in the English countryside picking elder blossoms. What could be a more idyllic scene?

Ingredients

8 litres boiling water	10 elderflower heads
5 lemons or oranges	white wine vinegar
1 kilogram white sugar	



Instructions: Clean the flower heads in water, and place in the pot with the sugar and lemons/oranges and vinegar.

Pour boiling water into pot, stir until mixed, then cover securely and place in a cool safe space. Give the mixture 1 day for fusion.

Strain and pour into sterilized bottles then chill.

Enjoy with sparkling water, ice, lemon and fruits!

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