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Campaign for an English Parliament

Think of England Number 96: October 2019

Northern Ireland Assembly
Speaks to the UK Government for N Ireland

Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
Speaks to the UK Government for Scotland

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Assembly for Wales
Speaks to the UK Government for Wales

Who speaks for England?

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Number 96 October 2019

Contents:

Editorial

Campaigning for England : Member's letter

Current English Affairs: Funding tertiary education, A&E waiting times, broken prison & justice system.

English politics: Electoral registration, education funding, waste strategy

England's heroes/heroines: John Wilkes

England's history: Battle of Edgehill

English culture: Hallowe'en

Promotion: English produce: Pumpkins

Recipe: Roast pumkin seeds

RECOMMENDED READING: English Place-names explained by Charles Whyne-Hammond published by Countryside Books



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: We appeal to all our members to write to their MPs and all sections of the media using the information we include in our newsletter to ask who speaks for England and why is England treated differently from the rest of the UK.



We include in his newsletter a copy of a letter printed by the respected Manchester Evening News sent by our member Tom Jackson. This is one way all members can help the campaign and stop us being ignored in the way the so-called respectable British media do as amply illustrated by the Telegraph and the Thunderer? The Times enjoys that nickname but does not deserve it in its reporting of the inequality of treatment of English students.

From the OECD illustration here, which was represented slightly differently in the Times online you can see that the UK government of England gives no scholarships or grants for tertiary education unlike the rest of the OECD countries illustrated. And why in two of these Times comparisons does the UK suddenly become England? And why are not the relative debt and government support of those in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland omitted?

The state of England's prisons is appalling. They are overcrowded and, according to the Times 5 prisons in England and Wales do not have in-cell sanitation. But all the substandard prisons mentioned are in England so why include Wales? Needless to say the eighth interparliamentary forum on Brexit ignores the interests of England since no-one speaks for England.

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Campaigning for England

A letter from one of our members was printed in the Manchester Evening News, headed "The English deserve to be treated equally" in heavy type and prominently displayed on the letters page.

"For many months now I have watched and listened to our representatives in the "mother of parliaments" and their unedifying comments and observations. Whether in parliament or in the media equality, morally, legally and politically, is considered to be the foundations of a democracy. It may be a vision but it is certainly not reality.

Within the United Kingdom it is axiomatic that all people should be treated equally, having the same opportunities in education, at work, gender equality or treatment during ill-health, all of which is laudable but remains illusory. Access to financial resources is a significant factor leading to equality.

Allocation of United Kingdom financial resources between the various nations has been distinctive. Last year central government financial support per person was as follows: in England £8,898, Scotland £10,651, Wales £10,076 and Northern Ireland £11,042. These variations have existed since 1979 when the Barnett formula was introduced, and have remained in place similarly ever since. No rational explanation exists as to why these significant differences, or the Barnett Formula, should continue.

When people in England are required to pay for personal care, when university students pay tuition fees, when payments arise for non-concessionary optician and dental tests, prescription charges, and even hospital parking charges, yet in other parts of the UK no similar charges exist, such discrimination in the allocation of funding is unacceptable. Three nations of the United Kingdom have continued to enjoy many benefits denied to the people of England.

At the recent Labour Party Conference there were many pledges increasing expenditure, one of which was to provide free personal care in England. Whilst this is welcome and will bring about some partial equality, parity in allocation of financial resources requires a much greater commitment from the United Kingdom Government in order that the people in England can enjoy similar benefits already experienced elsewhere. Equality can lead to a more harmonious, contented and healthier society."



Current English Affairs: Matters devolved in the rUK and should be the remit of an English Parliament

Graduates in UK getting a raw deal

Times 11/9/19: Nicola Woolcock, Education Correspondent

The government should do more to tackle poor quality degree courses and substandard universities that leave some graduates earning less than non-graduates, Andreas Schleicher, education director of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), said at the launch of its annual education report.

British (*The 'respected' Times means English. Ed.*) students pay among the highest tuition fees and rack up the most debt but have lower lifetime earnings than their foreign counterparts, an international comparison shows.

The comparison of dozens of developed countries found that tuition fees in England were higher than in all other countries apart from the US.

Piling up	
Average amount of debt at graduation(\$)	
England	\$49,812
Norway	\$28,698
Japan	\$28,269
New Zealand	\$24,117
Sweden	\$19,116
Netherlands	\$18,974
Canada	\$17,622
Denmark	\$13,902
Finland	\$11,719
Australia	\$10,479
Slovakia	\$3,263

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Graduates were only slightly more likely to be employed than non-graduates in the UK, and there was considerable variation in the employment rate and earnings by subject studied. Natural sciences, maths and statistics graduates earned an average of 181 per cent of a non-graduate's salary while those who studied arts, humanities, social sciences or journalism earned 92 per cent. The UK was the only country where the figure fell below 100 per cent. Overall, UK graduates earned 142 per cent of a non-graduate's salary in 2017, down from 154 per cent in 2013, showing a fall in the graduate premium.



Mr Schleicher said: "That's something to keep an eye on. Some people say there's an oversupply of highly skilled people. I don't see any signs of that. The expansion of higher education has come at the expense of quality at the margins. There's a lot of variability in the quality of degrees. That's something to be careful about."

The lifetime earnings for UK graduates are considerably higher than for non-graduates, but lower than in other countries. The private net financial return, the difference between benefits and cost of a degree, is \$195,200 (£58,000) for women in the UK, compared with an OECD average of \$227,600. Ireland topped the table with \$386,700. For men, the UK lifetime net financial return averaged \$245,100, compared with the OECD average of \$295,900 and \$542,600 in the US.

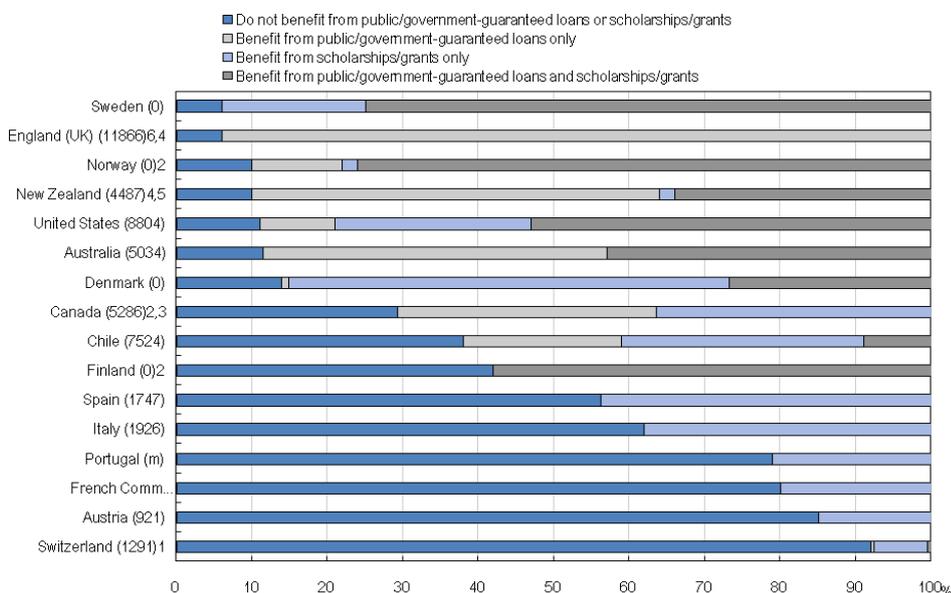
The report said British universities remained extremely attractive to overseas students, despite the high fees. It analysed 11 countries with comparable data and found **English** students graduated with the highest debt, an average of \$49,812. The next highest was Norway with \$28,698.

The University and College Union, which represents higher education staff, said: "Students leave university with record levels of debts, yet the universities are not investing in staff."

The Department for Education said: "We want students on high-quality courses, to give the best chance of a successful career, which is why the department recently called on institutions to drop or revamp courses which are poor value for money. We expect university plans to include actions that set out how they will improve equality of opportunity for students."

Breakdown of students' funding by country

From OECD 'Education at a Glance 2019'



(Note that, uniquely, English students receive no free state support. Ed.)

Alarm grows over A&E waiting times

September 13 2019, The Times: Rosie Taylor

Last month was the busiest August ever at A&E units, according to NHS (*England. Ed.*) figures.

The number of patients kept waiting at A&E departments in **England** reached its highest level in a decade last year, prompting warnings that pressure on the NHS would rise this winter if it faced the "perfect storm" of high demand and a no-deal Brexit.

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Patients kept waiting at least four hours more than trebled in the past five years. Last year only 88 per cent of patients were seen within four hours compared with 98.3 per cent ten years ago, according to the NHS's Hospital Accident & Emergency Activity 2018-19 report.

Helen Fidler, deputy chairwoman of the British Medical Association's consultants' committee, said: "This summer emergency departments had their busiest August on record. As we move into what will undoubtedly be a difficult winter the situation will get worse . . . A no-deal Brexit threatens to pile even more pressure on overworked staff."

A&E attendances last month were up 6.4 per cent on the same month last year. Although doctors treated an extra 1,200 patients within four hours, the percentage of people seen within that time dropped from 89.8 per cent to 86.3 per cent. About 24.8 million people attended emergency departments in 2018-19, a 21 per cent increase on the 20.5 million who visited in 2009-10. However, while attendances rose 2 per cent year-on-year, the population has grown by only 1 per cent a year over the same period.

Miriam Deakin, director of policy and strategy at NHS Providers, which represents hospitals, said the sheer dedication of staff was stabilising A&E performance despite a record number of patients. However, she added: "This winter will be a very testing time for trusts. We anticipate that performance will slip even further, with patients waiting longer for treatment across various services."

Rising demand has also increased the time patients are left on trolleys. Last month 362 patients waited for more than 12 hours in A&E after it had been decided to admit them, more than double the figure for August last year.

Prison system is brutal and broken, says watchdog

September 16 2019, The Times: Nicola Woolcock

Sir Tom Winsor, the chief inspector of constabulary, said that "inexcusably low" amounts were spent on preventing childhood victims of abuse or neglect from being sucked into lives of crime. Sir Tom said: "Very high proportions of people in prison are unwell, uneducated, undervalued, and justifiably angry. In childhood, many have suffered or witnessed domestic violence or abuse. Many more have severe and chronic mental ill health, intensified by years without diagnosis or treatment. And many have no sense of self-worth, feel hopeless, lost and abused, and that no one ever has or ever will care. They believe they have nothing to lose."

His comments could place him at odds with Priti Patel, the home secretary, who has taken a tough stance on offenders since taking office. In her first interview since being promoted in August, Ms Patel said that she wanted criminals "to literally feel terror" once she began her law and order reforms.

Yesterday it became clear that the government was preparing to introduce longer sentences, including whole life orders for those who murder pre-school children.

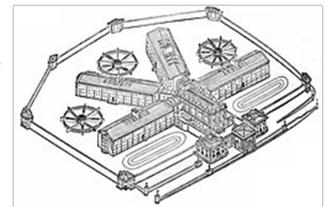
A report last year by the Commons health and social care committee said that the government was failing in its duty of care towards prisoners, with too many held in unsafe, unsanitary and outdated establishments. There were missed opportunities to break the cycle of disadvantage, it said.

Sir Tom said prevention was better than cure but that the criminal justice crisis stemmed from the failure to tackle social dysfunctionality, families in crisis, problems with alcohol, drugs and the "corrosive effects of readily available hardcore pornography".

He added: "If you brutalise people, they will become brutal. For those in prison — very many of whom are victims as well as offenders — the conditions must be humane, their mental ill-health must be understood and properly treated, and their rehabilitation must be properly resourced."

There were pockets of excellent practice he said, such as in south Wales where public agencies take a commonsense approach and work together to support families in difficulty. This means that housing authorities work jointly with officials from health, education, social services and the police.

Ben Crewe, deputy director of the Prisons Research Centre at Cambridge University, said: "There is very clear evidence that prisons that are more decent and humane lead to better rehabilitative outcomes. So while it might feel intuitive to believe that 'tougher' prisons will have a deterrent effect, that's inconsistent with what the research tells us."



Robberies in England and Wales up 33% in four years

Times 20/9/19: Fariha Karim

Robberies in **England** and Wales have risen more than in any other major developed country.

A study by Crest Advisory, an independent crime consultancy, said that robberies had gone up by 33 per cent

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between 2014 and 2018. In France, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, robberies had decreased over the same period. In France they had dropped by 24 per cent. Rises were seen in Sweden, Finland and Scotland, but only by a maximum of 4 per cent in the latter. The report also indicated that 269,000 children were at risk of being involved in serious violence.

Last year only 7 per cent of robbery cases resulted in a suspect being charged compared with 21 per cent four years earlier. The report also highlighted that the number of police fell by 21,000 between 2010 and 2018.

Harvey Redgrave, managing director of Crest Advisory, said: "The opportunity to commit robberies may be greater here than in other countries. Criminals respond to incentives and if they feel like they're not being effectively policed we're likely to see an increase in these types of offences?"

Dame Louise Casey, the former government tsar for troubled families and a senior adviser at Crest Advisory, said that cuts to services including for youths and neighbourhood policing were partly to blame.

However, the Home Office said that the greater number of robberies reflected a greater willingness by victims to report offences. A spokesman told the BBC: "We are giving police the tools they need to keep families, communities and our country safe, including recruiting 20,000 new police officers and making it easier for them to use stop and search powers."



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Prisoners use buckets as toilets in 'slop out' practice supposed to have been banned over a decade ago

25 September 2019 , Telegraph: Charles Hymas, home affairs editor

Prisoners are being forced to use buckets as toilets in their cells and slop them out in the morning despite pledges by ministers to phase out the "Victorian" practice more than a decade ago. Four of the five prison blocks at HMP Coldingley in Bisley, Surrey still do not have in-cell sanitation or wash basins despite recommendations by Lord Woolf in 1991 that all cells should after the Strangeways riots. In his report on the prison disturbances of 1990, Lord Woolf highlighted concerns that had already been raised by successive HM chief inspectors of prisons over the practice of "slopping out". He said it was "uncivilised, unhygienic and degrading" and "a blot on our prison system...which undermines the justice of the sentence which prisoners are serving".

A report by the prison's independent monitoring board (IMB) reveals that at night prisoners must press a bell and wait in a queue to use the toilets on the landing. Prisoners are allowed eight minutes to use the toilet and return to their cell. If the facilities are not available in time, prisoners have to use buckets in their cell as a toilet and "slop out" (empty the buckets) in the morning. The report said the board was "appalled" at the problem which it branded "degrading and totally unsatisfactory", adding: "The lack of in-cell sanitation is unacceptable in 2019 and requires urgent action." "Inevitably, some prisoners dispose of human waste via cell windows", the report added.

Heather Cook, IMB chair, added: "The lavatories and sluices fall a long way short of acceptable standards, with frequent blockages and broken doors. The fact that prisoners have to queue to use the facilities at night inevitably means that 'slopping out' is still a feature of prison life."

HMP Coldingley is one of five prisons in **England** and Wales (sic) that are thought not to have full In-cell sanitation. They are HMP Bristol (one wing without), HMP Grendon, HMP Isle of Wight (Albany site) and HMP Long Lartin, Worcs according to research by the Prison Reform Trust.

However, a spokesman said: "HMP Coldingley, which was built in the 1960s, is one of the few prisons with shared toilets and installing in-cell facilities would cut its capacity in half. We have just announced plans to invest £2.5 billion in 10,000 new places which will ensure we have a prison estate that is fit for the future. The prison service said nearly 99 per cent of prisoners in **England** and Wales had access to in-cell toilets."

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Number of criminals brought to trial hits record low amid warning justice system is 'grinding to halt'

26 September 2019 , Telegraph: Charles Hymas, home affairs editor

The number of criminals being brought to trial has fallen to a record low amid warnings that Britain's (*England's Ed.*) justice system is "grinding to a halt." Official figures show the number of trials in magistrates and crown courts is down by a third since 2010 and by ten per cent in just a year to 152,000, prompting warnings that a "broken" criminal justice system is letting offenders "walk free" when overall crime rates are rising.

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Legal experts and politicians blamed falling detection and prosecution rates as fewer criminals are caught compounded by an over-cautious Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) failing to take cases to court unless they were guaranteed success. Richard Atkins, QC, chair of the Bar Council, said: "Criminals are free to walk the streets as the justice system begins to grind to a halt leaving the British (*English, Ed.*) public at risk. These latest Ministry of Justice statistics must be ringing alarm bells at the Treasury and Number 10. Criminal justice needs more than simply boosting police ranks. It needs investment in the entire system."

It comes as the overall crime rate rose by eight per cent from 2017/18 to 5.95 million offences for the year ending March 2019, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The number of offenders being prosecuted - 1.4 million in the year to last September - are at their lowest since 1970, while just 7.8 per cent of of-

fences were solved, down from more than 17 per cent just four years ago and the lowest rate since the data was first compiled in 2015.

Caroline Goodwin, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, called for an end to "draconian" cuts in crown court sitting days which left courts sitting idle and criticised an increase in the criminal case backlog. The figures showed there were 32,708 still to conclude as at 30 June this year. "Substantial investment is needed to tackle court closures, falling prosecutions and the rise in violent crime," she said.

Dame Vera Baird, QC, the Victims' Commissioner, said the decline was "extremely worrying" for victims. "These figures suggest that crimes that would have been tried only a year or two ago are not being tried now. The gravity and impact of the crime has not changed for the victim but what seems to be different is the capacity of the criminal justice system to tackle it.

Harry Fletcher, director of the Victims' Rights Campaign, said there were fewer police officers on operational duties which meant fewer crimes were properly investigated. "The knock-on is a dramatic fall in court business," he said. "It is distressing for victims to see fewer and fewer of their perpetrators facing justice. The whole of the justice system is in a chaotic mess and there needs to be an urgent review of funding and staffing."

The figures show the 3,470 offences involving violence against a person made up around a quarter of the caseload in crown courts, the biggest proportion. Of these, 1,088 involved possession of weapons, up 24 per cent on the previous year's 879.

John Apter, chair of the Police Federation, said: "When investigations are undertaken, detectives are doing the very best they can. However, diminishing numbers, increasing workloads, combined with progressively lengthy action lists from the Crown Prosecution Service which must be completed before charges are authorised, means it is not surprising that there is a widening disconnect between the number of offences reported and the number of people prosecuted. It must also be remembered that the job of bringing cases to court falls to the CPS, not the police.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman said: "The drop in the number of trials simply reflects that there has been a fall in the number of Crown Court prosecutions – any claim to the contrary is misleading. The Ministry of Justice budget will increase by 5% in real terms next year and the Crown Prosecution Service is receiving an extra £85 million to ensure the criminal justice system can support the work of the 20,000 extra police officers we are recruiting to tackle crime."

The CPS said: "Our work is demand led; we do not investigate crime, or choose which cases to consider. CPS prosecutors review every case referred to us by the police or other law enforcement agencies. If our test to bring a prosecution is met we will not hesitate to prosecute."

English politics:

LORDS: 03 September 2019

The Select Committee on the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 questions electoral registration officers from three local councils on the operation of the Act.

Mr Glynne Morgan, Electoral Services Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council

Ms Clare Oakley, Electoral Services Manager, London Borough of Camden

Mr Andrew Tiffin, Elections & Registration Manager, Hart District Council

Possible questions:

Has the introduction of individual registration been positive?

How have local authorities managed online registration and surges of public interest around general elections and referendums?

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What impact has the introduction of individual electoral registration had on efforts to reach under-registered groups?

Does the Government properly fund councils for the cost of running elections?

How big a problem is electoral fraud? What shape does it most often come in?

What are the key problems in relation to the annual canvass?



03 September 2019: Statement on education funding

Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, has updated the House of Commons on education funding. He told MPs, "We are allocating funding so that every school's per-pupil-funding can rise at least in line with inflation and to accelerate gains for areas of the country which have been historically under-funded, with most areas seeing significant gains above inflation we'll ensure that all schools are allocated their gains under a formula in full next year."

Responding on behalf of the Opposition, Shadow Minister Angela Raynor asked, "How much funding has been cut since 2010 and how many of those cuts are left in place? Because as welcome as it is that they have finally accepted the failures of austerity, they won't fool anyone into thinking it's over. As teachers and parents start term this week too many will be in schools that face immediate financial crisis, so can he tell the House why there is nothing for this year?"

COMMONS: 05 September 2019

Government must heed local council warnings over restrictive waste strategy

The Select Committee on Housing, Communities and Local Government warns that the strategy risks placing a needless burden on local authorities by enforcing a prescriptive national approach to recycling and waste management. By enforcing rules on aspects including the frequency of collections, or which services should or should not be charged for, the strategy does not allow the flexibility for councils to react to local conditions.

The Government is seeking to require local authorities to introduce between one and three recycling bins, on top of residual waste, food waste and garden waste bins. As such, every household would be required to have between four and six bins. However, the Committee expressed its doubts that councils want to ask their residents to store six separate bins outside or inside their homes, particularly in urban areas where space is likely to be more limited. Even four receptacles—the minimum the Government is proposing—will be challenging in many circumstances.

A balance must be struck between requiring local authorities to improve recycling and waste management, and the ability of local councils to decide the most effective way of achieving this.

Needlessly rigid demands on local authorities will prevent them from using their local knowledge to provide services that match local need, and most importantly provide value for money for tax payers. Waste collection is one of the most tangible services that local communities receive from their councils and it is they who will be accountable at the ballot box.

LORDS: 10 September 2019

The Interparliamentary forum on Brexit, bringing together parliamentarians from Westminster and the devolved legislatures, held its eighth meeting at the House of Commons on 5 September 2019.

The House of Lords European Union Committee, in its report on [Brexit: devolution](#), recommended that the structures for interparliamentary dialogue within the United Kingdom should be strengthened, to support more effective scrutiny of the Government's handling of Brexit. This led to the formation of the Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit, comprising the Chairs and Convenors of Committees scrutinising Brexit-related issues in the House of Commons, House of Lords, Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and, as and when the power-sharing institutions are restored, the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Forum held its first meeting in October 2017.

This eighth meeting was hosted by the House of Commons and chaired by Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair of the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. The European Union Committee was represented by the Earl of Kinnoull and Lord Jay of Ewelme.

Statement:

Participants agreed the following statement after the forum:

There remains great uncertainty about how the Brexit process will develop. The Forum's strength is in its

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ability to bring together Members of differing political backgrounds from across the UK to discuss important questions relating to Brexit and devolution. The Forum has written to the new Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Michael Gove, to reiterate its recommendations for the UK and devolved parliaments to have a role in scrutinising intergovernmental relations as part of the JMC review.

We had a productive discussion on the importance of developing mechanisms for greater parliamentary scrutiny of governments in their negotiation of future international treaties and other agreements including the importance of timely and regular information sharing with regards to the UK governments' negotiating mandate.

The Forum agreed that parliamentary scrutiny of international treaties is a matter for all of the legislatures of the UK and have asked officials to consider models for scrutiny across the legislatures.

We intend to meet again in Cardiff in November 2019

England's hero: John Wilkes

John Wilkes (17 October 1725 – 26 December 1797) was born in Clerkenwell central London,

He was an English radical, journalist and politician and was first elected a Member of Parliament in 1757. His defiance of authority made him a popular figure and darling of the mob, despite his outrageous behaviour he was re-elected to Parliament four times and became a symbol of free speech. In the Middlesex election dispute, he fought for the right of his voters—rather than the House of Commons—to determine their representatives.

Wilkes was re-elected to Parliament, again representing Middlesex. He was one of those opposed to war with the American colonies. He was also a supporter of the Association Movement and of religious tolerance. His key success was to protect the freedom of the press by gaining passage of a bill to remove the power of general warrants and to end Parliament's ability to punish political reports of debates.

Wilkes began his parliamentary career as a follower of William Pitt the Elder and enthusiastically supported Britain's involvement in the Seven Years War of 1756-1763. When the Scottish John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, came to head the government in 1762, Wilkes started a radical weekly publication, *The North Briton*, to attack him, using an anti-Scots tone. Typical of Wilkes, the title made satirical reference to the pro-government newspaper, *The Briton*, with "North Briton" referring to Scotland. Wilkes became particularly incensed by what he regarded as Bute's betrayal in agreeing to overly generous peace terms with France to end the war.

Wilkes faced a charge of seditious libel over attacks on George III's speech endorsing the Paris Peace Treaty of 1763 at the opening of Parliament on 23 April 1763. Wilkes was highly critical of the King's speech, which was recognised as having been written by Bute. He attacked it in an article of issue 45 of *The North Briton*. The issue number in which Wilkes published his critical editorial was appropriate because the number 45 was synonymous with the Jacobite Rising of 1745, commonly known as "The '45". Popular perception associated Bute – Scottish, and politically controversial as an adviser to the King – with Jacobitism, a perception which Wilkes played on

After 1780, his popularity declined as he was perceived by the populace as less radical. During the uprising known as the Gordon Riots, Wilkes was in charge of the soldiers defending the Bank of England from the attacking mobs. It was under his orders that troops fired into the crowds of rioters. The working classes who had previously seen Wilkes as a "man of the people", then criticised him as a hypocrite; his middle-class support was scared off by the violent action.

He was well known for his verbal wit and his snappy responses to insults. For instance, when told by a constituent that he would rather vote for the devil, Wilkes responded: "Naturally." He then added: "And if your friend decides against standing, can I count on your vote?" In an exchange with John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, where the latter exclaimed, "Sir, I do not know whether you will die on the gallows or of the pox," Wilkes is reported to have replied, "That depends, my lord, on whether I embrace your lordship's principles or your mistress."

He was a member of the Knights of St Francis of Wycombe, also known as the Hellfire Club or the *Medmenham Monks*, and was the instigator of a prank that may have hastened its dissolution. The Club had many distinguished members, including John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich and Sir Francis Dashwood. Wilkes reportedly brought a baboon dressed in a cape and horns into the rituals performed at the club, producing considerable mayhem among the inebriated initiates



John Wilkes by Richard Houston 1769

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British subjects in the American colonies closely followed Wilkes's career. His struggles convinced many colonists that the British constitution was being subverted by a corrupt ministry, an idea that contributed to the coming of the American Revolution. Wilkes was widely admired in the American colonies as a political journalist, a radical politician, and a fighter for liberty. He greatly influenced the revolutionaries who fought for American independence and played a role in establishing the right to freedom of the press in the United States. In reaction, after the Revolution, representatives included provisions in the new American constitution to prevent Congress from rejecting any legally elected member and to proscribe general warrants for arrest

England's history: Battle of Edgehill

23 October 1642 The first major battle of the English Civil War took place at Edgehill in south Warwickshire. Charles I and Prince Rupert led the Royalists and the Earl of Essex led the Parliamentarians. When it appeared to King Charles I that no agreement with Parliament over the government of the kingdom was possible, he left London on 2 March 1642 and headed for the north of England. Both Parliament and King realised that armed conflict was inevitable, and prepared to raise forces. Parliament enacted a Militia Ordinance, by which it claimed authority over the country's trained bands, while from his temporary capital of York, Charles rejected Parliament's Nineteen Propositions and issued Commissions of Array, directing the Lord Lieutenant of each county to raise forces for the King. The Battle of Edgehill (or Edge Hill) was a pitched battle of the First English Civil War. It was fought near Edge Hill and Kineton in southern Warwickshire on Sunday, 23 October 1642.

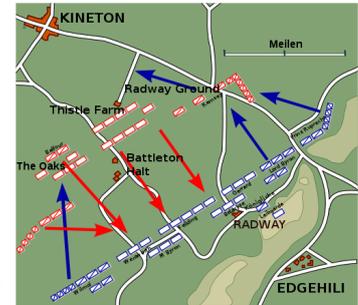
All attempts at constitutional compromise between King Charles and Parliament broke down early in 1642. Both King and Parliament raised large armies to gain their way by force of arms. In October, at his temporary base near Shrewsbury, the King decided to march on London in order to force a decisive confrontation with Parliament's main army, commanded by the Earl of Essex.

By 22 October, the Royalist army was quartered in the villages around Edgcote, and was threatening the Parliamentary post at Banbury. The garrison of Banbury sent messengers pleading for help to the garrison of Warwick Castle. Essex, who had just reached there, ordered an immediate march to Kineton to bring relief to Banbury, even though his army had straggled and not all his troops were present. That evening, there were clashes between outposts and quartermasters' parties in Kineton and the villages nearby, and the Royalists had their first inkling that Essex's army was close by. The King issued orders for his army to muster for battle on top of the escarpment of Edgehill the following day.

Essex originally intended marching straight to the relief of Banbury, but at about 8 a.m. on 23 October, his outposts reported that the Royalists were massed on Edgehill, 4.5 miles from Kineton. Essex deployed his army about halfway between Kineton and the Royalist army, where hedges formed a natural position.

Late on 22 October, both armies unexpectedly found the enemy to be close by. The next day, the Royalist army descended from Edge Hill to force battle. After the Parliamentary artillery opened a cannonade, the Royalists attacked. Both armies consisted mostly of inexperienced and sometimes ill-equipped troops. Many men from both sides fled or fell out to loot enemy baggage, and neither army was able to gain a decisive advantage.

After the battle, the King resumed his march on London, but was not strong enough to overcome the defending militia before Essex's army could reinforce them. The inconclusive result of the Battle of Edgehill prevented either faction gaining a quick victory in the war, which eventually lasted four years



Interpretation of the Battle of Edgehill within Radway field – Royalists blue, Parliamentarians red

English culture: Celebrate English culture this month

Halloween or Hallowe'en (a contraction of Hallows' Even or Hallows' Evening), also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in several countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide (All Saints' Day), the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

The feast of All Hallows', on its current date in the Western Church, may be traced to Pope Gregory III's (731–741) founding of an oratory in St Peter's for the relics "of the holy apostles and of all saints, martyrs and confessors". In 835, All Hallows' Day was officially switched to 1 November, at the behest of Pope Gregory IV. Some suggest this was due to Celtic influence, while others suggest it was a Germanic idea,

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although it is claimed that both Germanic and Celtic-speaking peoples commemorated the dead at the beginning of winter. They may have seen it as the most fitting time to do so, as it is a time of 'dying' in nature. It is also suggested that the change was made on the "practical grounds that Rome in summer could not accommodate the great number of pilgrims who flocked to it", and perhaps because of public health considerations regarding Roman Fever – a disease that claimed a number of lives during the sultry summers of the region

By the end of the 12th century they had become holy days of obligation across Europe and involved such traditions as ringing church bells for the souls in purgatory. In addition, "it was customary for criers dressed in black to parade the streets, ringing a bell of mournful sound and calling on all good Christians to remember the poor souls." "Souling", the custom of baking and sharing soul cakes for all christened souls, has been suggested as the origin of trick-or-treating. The custom dates back at least as far as the 15th century and was found in parts of England, Flanders, Germany and Austria. Groups of poor people, often children, would go door-to-door during Allhallowtide, collecting soul cakes, in exchange for praying for the dead, especially the souls of the givers' friends and relatives. Soul cakes would also be offered for the souls themselves to eat, or the 'soulers' would act as their representatives. As with the Lenten tradition of hot cross buns, Allhallowtide soul cakes were often marked with a cross, indicating that they were baked as alms. Shakespeare mentions souling in his comedy *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1593). On the custom of wearing costumes,

Wearing costumes and playing pranks at Halloween spread to England in the 20th century. Traditionally, pranksters used hollowed out turnips or mangel wurzels often carved with grotesque faces as lanterns. By those who made them, the lanterns were variously said to represent the spirits, or were used to ward off evil spirits. They were common in parts of Ireland and the Scottish Highlands in the 19th century, as well as in Somerset. In the 20th century they spread to other parts of England and became generally known as jack-o'-lanterns

It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from ancient Celtic harvest festivals, particularly the Gaelic festival Samhain; that such festivals may have had pagan roots; and that Samhain itself was Christianized as Halloween by the early Church. Some believe, however, that Halloween began solely as a Christian holiday, separate from ancient festivals like Samhain.

Halloween activities include trick-or-treating (or the related guising and souling), attending Halloween costume parties, carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, lighting bonfires, apple bobbing, divination games, playing pranks, visiting haunted attractions, telling scary stories, as well as watching horror films.

Throughout Ireland and Britain, the household festivities included rituals and games intended to foretell one's future, especially regarding death and marriage. Apples and nuts were often used in these divination rituals. They included apple bobbing, nut roasting, scrying or mirror-gazing, pouring molten lead or egg whites into water, dream interpretation, and others. Special bonfires were lit and there were rituals involving them. Their flames, smoke and ashes were deemed to have protective and cleansing powers, and were also used for divination. In some places, torches lit from the bonfire were carried sunwise around homes and fields to protect them. It is suggested that the fires were a kind of imitative or sympathetic magic – they mimicked the Sun, helping the "powers of growth" and holding back the decay and darkness of winter.



A jack-o'-lantern, one of the symbols of Halloween

Promotion: English produce: Pumpkins

Native to North America (northeastern Mexico and southern United States), Pumpkins are one of the oldest domesticated plants, having been used as early as 7,500 to 5,000 BC. Pumpkins are widely grown for commercial use and are used both for food and recreation.

The word *pumpkin* originates from the word *pepon* (πέπων), which is Greek for "large melon", something round and large. The French adapted this word to *pompon*, which the English changed to *pumpion* and to the later American colonists became known as *pumpkin*.

Millions of pumpkins are grown throughout England. There are now pumpkin festivals in Spalding, Lincolnshire and in Yorkshire. There are also 'pick your own' farms.

Pumpkins are frequently carved as jack-o'-lanterns for decoration around Halloween,



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Recipe: Roast Pumpkin seeds

Roast pumpkin seeds and use them to make delicious autumnal snacks, salads and bakes. Pumpkin seeds are packed with vitamins and minerals, and they're a great source of fibre. Plus, while a packet of ready-prepared pumpkin seeds from the wholefoods aisle is quite affordable, there's nothing better than the feeling of saving money by using up a product most people would throw away.

The use of small or medium-sized seeds is recommended. Some larger seeds may be too tough to eat, although generally all seeds are suitable for consumption, so make a judgement call based on the seeds you're faced with. Seeds straight from the pumpkin are usually white and they look different to the dark green seeds you see in packets. This is because the dark seeds are the inner kernel, but they are so tricky to extract that advice is against it.

How to prepare pumpkin seeds

To clean the seeds, tip them into a sieve and wash under cold running water, pulling away any of the pulp from the pumpkin to discard it. Don't worry if it doesn't all come off, as it will once the seeds are boiled.

How to cook pumpkin seeds

Boil some salted water in a large saucepan, add the cleaned seeds and boil for 5-10 minutes depending on the size, then drain on a kitchen towel.

Toss the drained seeds with a little oil, some seasoning and spread evenly across a large baking sheet. Roast the seeds at 180C/gas 4 for about 8-10 minutes.

You can add lots of different flavours to your seeds before roasting. Try paprika, chilli, cumin or a little brown sugar and honey for candied seeds. Alternatively, just season with rock salt and pepper. *Chinese spiced seed mix* is flavoured with five-spice powder and makes the perfect healthy snack to nibble while watching TV.

How to store pumpkin seeds

The roasted seeds will stay fresh in an airtight container for up to three days. After that, they might lose their crunch.

Serving suggestions

Your roasted seeds will taste great sprinkled over salads or vegetable side dishes, served as a snack with drinks as a healthier alternative to nuts, or mixed with dried fruit and nuts to create a trail mix for packed lunches.



Endnote: What a score: rugby hymn Jerusalem is Britain's No 1

Times 30/9/19: Nadeem Badshah

It is a hymn popular in churches and at England rugby matches and now *Jerusalem* has been voted the UK's favourite in a poll by the BBC's *Songs of Praise*.

The poem by William Blake, set to music written by Hubert Parry in 1916, finished in front of *How Great Thou Art*, and *In Christ Alone*.

The nation's favourite hymn, which imagines Jesus visiting England's green and pleasant land, was voted for by tens of thousands with the result revealed by Aled Jones in Leicester yesterday.

Jerusalem did not feature on the top ten list the last time the survey was conducted in 2013.

This month the Barmy Army group of England cricket fans convinced Lesley Garrett, the opera soprano, to lead an impromptu rendition of *Jerusalem* during the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval.

As the final lyrics rang out, Sam Curran dismissed the Australian batsman Matthew Wade in the first innings.

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