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Campaign for an **E**nglish **P**arliament

Think of England Number 64: January 2017

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR



**Championing England
& Challenging Prejudice**

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Number 64 January 2017

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Watching the English; the hidden rules of English behaviour by Kate Fox, published by Hodder



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: Let us ring in the new year with the hope that our voice will be heard as a result of the Constitution Unit's research. It is vital that all members respond. Meanwhile our insensitive and discriminatory treatment



by British politicians continues. George Eustice, the UK fisheries minister, although fisheries is a devolved matter, this month withheld 1,500 tonnes of the Arctic cod quota, from English fishermen to benefit the Scots. Another example of the 'love' of England displayed by a so-called English MP. The CEP has been alerting the industry, MPs of English constituencies and the press to this discrimination since 2004. When will they listen? The British/Irish Council (BIC) met in Cardiff in November to discuss Brexit without anyone to represent England. You might think the people of England had an interest in this subject, having voted overwhelmingly for it, but England's voice was neither heard nor canvassed. More insultingly, if possible, the BIC published a report on demographics in the UK which necessarily had to separate England from the rUK. There was a lot on the importance of demographics to the rUK but no comment on that of England! England again disregarded.

The current Wales Bill is going through the House of Lords. The government is very concerned about permanence of the settlement and that there should be no asymmetry compared with Scotland. What a load of hypocrites we have in our Parliament when it comes to the treatment of England.

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Campaigning for England: Your chance to make a difference

The Constitution Unit has recently begun work on a new project examining the design options for an English Parliament. **Jack Sheldon** and **Meg Russell** set these questions out and invite views on them through a consultation that is now open and will close on 27 January 2017.

they will not be advocating for or against an English Parliament it is ultimately for politicians to decide which case they find more convincing. Instead they will undertake an objective analysis of the options for the detailed design of such a body, in order to inform future deliberations. They ask and are seeking views on questions including the following:

- 1. Should an English Parliament be established as part of a settlement to bind the UK together in a more stable way, or to facilitate English independence?**
- 2. Should an English Parliament be separately elected, or should it be composed of English members of the House of Commons holding a dual mandate?**
- 3. What powers should an English Parliament have?**
- 4. How many members should there be in an English Parliament, and within what structure?** The body might also be either unicameral or bicameral.
- 5. What electoral system and boundaries should be used for an English Parliament?**
- 6. Where should an English Parliament sit?**
- 7. Should there also be an English government and First Minister?**
- 8. How should an English Parliament be financed?**
- 9. How should an English Parliament relate to sub-national bodies such as city-regions?**
- 10. What implications would an English Parliament have for the UK parliament and government?**

They are aware that there will be a range of views on these questions. This is not about whether or not there should be an English Parliament but about how such a parliament should be designed were it to be established. It is also designed to tease out the diversity of views, and get a sense for whether there is any viable model around which proponents might unite.

They are seeking fairly detailed responses and particularly encourage responses from those who have given these questions considerable thought, and/or who have expertise in areas such as electoral systems, federalism, subnational government or devolution finance. They look forward to reading what respondents say, and this will guide their research as well as helping them to formulate their conclusions. They plan to publish their report late in 2017, and before then will include updates on the Constitution Unit blog.

<https://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=45751>

IT IS VITAL THAT MEMBERS RESPOND TO THIS INVITATION OTHERWISE OUR CAMPAIGN WILL NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

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**Eddie Bone and scilla Cullen have already had a meeting with Meg Russell and Richard Sheldon at the Constitution Unit.**

The Constitution Unit is undertaking research into what forms an English Parliament might take. We were asked about the history of the CEP and our views on the UK and what form an EP might take. We stated that we believed the UK in its present form was at an end and a new UK acceptable to all nations with equality between nations in recognition by a UK Parliament was necessary. In fact we stated that that outcome may already be beyond achieving as devolution to the rUK had been pushed so far and England left out of the deliberations. We stated that the original six members of the CEP and those that followed closely were unionists but that the Constitution was now so unequal that we did not care for it to continue in its present form or, indeed, whether it continued at all. We stated that we were not prescriptive with regard to an EP but insisted on at least two fundamental requirements namely a first Minister and no dual mandates. We pointed out that the Conservative party in government had required the cessation of dual mandating for Welsh Assembly Members and Members of the Northern Irish Assembly and for any member of that party to require MPs to an English Parliament to be dual mandated was the height of hypocrisy.

We stated that since there was no limit to the cost of setting up the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament our English Parliament must be treated as generously. When asked how an EP should be financed we stated that this should be in the same way as the Scottish Parliament is at present. However we also stated that the Barnett formula must be discarded and and that the distribution of funding from

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the central UK government must be by equality per head of the UK population and that funding according to need should be the responsibility of devolved national government. We all agreed that the issue of funding and financial support to the devolved administrations was now extremely complicated and difficult to understand.

The issue of regions was mentioned and I recalled attending so-called regional constitutional conventions. There the only people in favour of those 20th century artefacts with no basis in our culture or heritage, let alone geography, were the speakers on the podium. Eddie reminded the academics of regional committees set up by the last Labour government that were basically unattended and cancelled for lack of interest. (This experience and the minimal interest by British MPs of English constituencies in EVEL committees demonstrates the necessity of a single mandate.) We pointed out that we regarded city regions as local government and that coherence in the establishment of these changes needed a collective voice.

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### **Current English Affairs (devolved to the rest of the UK): Transport/fisheries/Education**

In April the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, (containing a Scottish Nationalist), urged Clean Air Zones in English towns for pollution hotspots, in its report on Air quality

The Committee pressed for new Clean Air Zones in dozens of English towns and cities to cut the risk of cardiac, respiratory and other diseases caused by polluted air. Urgent Government action is needed to stop up to 50,000 people a year dying early from air pollution-related illnesses

Defra plans new Clean Air Zones for five of the most polluted cities but MPs say more is needed to cut the health and environmental impacts of pollutants, including particulates and nitrogen dioxide.

Neil Parish MP, Chair of the Committee said: "Only five cities (Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham, Derby and Southampton) will have new powers to charge polluting vehicles to enter new clean air zones. Councils in the dozens of other English cities currently exceeding EU pollution limits must also be given the option of using such powers if their communities support action.

The zones need to deliver local solutions to local problems. Defra's proposed 'one-size-fits-all' clean air zones will set rigid rules on cities as diverse as Southampton and Leeds.

Communities must be given legal powers to set controls that meet their own circumstances—for example, some might want to charge polluting vehicles to access zones at certain times of day or to target specific bus routes."

The Committee calls on the Government to devolve greater flexibility to all councils on use of development and traffic movement powers to tackle vehicle pollution in and out of Clean Air Zones.

Diesel vehicles produce more nitrogen oxides than petrol and alternatively-fuelled vehicles. The Committee urges the Government to consider introducing a diesel scrappage scheme for older vehicles.

Neil Parish MP said: "Government funding for new refuelling infrastructure and grants to help buy cleaner vehicles such as electric or hybrid cars is welcome. But more action is needed if we are to get older, more polluting diesel vehicles off the road quickly. People need more of an incentive to purchase the more expensive low-emission vehicles: we want the Government to start planning now to introduce at the next Budget a scrappage scheme targeted at cars and vans ten years or more old."

The Committee also calls for a greater spread of modern farming practices aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.

Neil Parish MP said: "Farmers are under huge financial pressures at the moment. They can save money and help to clean up the environment and improve health if they use the latest methods for managing manure and fertiliser and for feeding their livestock. Defra needs to target best practice support, rather than add regulation, to make sure the agricultural sector does all it can to cut pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions"

**On 13 December 2016** in the House of Commons air quality was examined with Ministers, the Deputy London Mayor and ClientEarth. The .

Alan Andrews, Clean Air Project Leader, ClientEarth

Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for London, Environment and Energy

Dr Therese Coffey, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Defra

Rt Hon John Hayes, Minister of State for Transport

The Committee questioned ClientEarth and the Deputy Mayor on the implications of a High Court



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ruling on air pollution and Ministers on how they will develop new plans to tackle air pollution

On 2 November the High Court ruled that the Government had erred in law in its plans to meet EU limits on nitrogen dioxide pollution: Defra must submit by July 2017 revised plans to meet limits at the soonest date possible.

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Back in May the Times' Zachary Spiro reported: **M25 revamp leads to 600 near-misses**

Removing a motorway's hard shoulders has led to 600 near-misses in just over two years and may have



resulted in at least one death. Sections of the hard shoulder lanes were removed from the M25 in 2014 as part of the government's "smart" motorways initiative to ease congestion. Under the scheme, in the case of a breakdown a "red X" warning sign indicates that a lane is closed - although many drivers do not understand what the sign means and fail to slow down.

Mike Wilson, Highways England chief operations officer, told MPs: "The public are travelling through the red Xs and coming across traffic officers. That is where the near-miss comes from." Official data shows that on some parts of the motorway a vehicle is driven

through a red X sign every five seconds. The closure of the hard shoulders has been blamed for the death of a woman last month after an HGV crashed into the back of a broken-down car. Laura Cooper, 34, was the backseat passenger in the vehicle, which ran out of petrol on a stretch of the M25 near Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Prospect, the traffic officers' trade union, said figures showed that hundreds of near-crashes had taken place since the introduction of the scheme. It has recorded 603 incidents since 2014 where vehicles in lanes marked with a red X nearly collided on two sections of the M25 without a hard shoulder. Other motorways with sections using the "smart" scheme include the M1, M6, M42 and M62. A publication from the Highways Agency last year included data showing that a third of road users "do not know what to do when they see a red X sign displayed". According to the data, 8 per cent of drivers said they would stop if they saw one.

The agency said: "A red X sign is used to identify when a lane is closed and indicates that drivers should move into an open lane to continue their journeys." Jamie Hassall, national enforcement co-ordinator of the Highways Agency, said: "It is pretty simple - if you see a red X, don't drive in that lane. If you do, you could collide with a broken-down vehicle or with a traffic officer, emergency service crew or recovery operator working in that lane."

In November the Sunday Times' Mark Hookham, Transport correspondent reported:

A SAFETY review is being held into the government's policy of abolishing the hard shoulder on some of Britain's biggest motorways amid fears that lives are being put at risk.

Engineers at Highways England, the agency that manages the country's motorways and main A-roads, are considering increasing the number and size of emergency lay-bys or so-called smart motorways in the face of safety concerns from the police, MPs and motoring organisations.

Earlier this month a bus driver was found guilty of killing three people in a crash on the M1 when he failed to see signs that the hard shoulder should not be used. The collision took place on a section of smart motorway where the hard shoulder can be temporarily turned into a live lane to ease congestion.

Jim O'Sullivan, the boss of Highways England, told The Sunday Times that based on an analysis of two years of accident data the new generation of motorways appeared to be "every bit as safe" as traditional ones, but he added: "We recognise that a proportion of our users don't feel safe on smart motorways."

The hard shoulder has been permanently abolished and turned into a "running lane" on sections of the M25, M1 and M6, totalling about 63 miles of motorway, in an attempt to boost capacity without widening the roads

It will be removed on another 105 miles by 2020, including on stretches of the M3, M5 and M62, and on another 177 miles of motorway after that date.

Under the £60bn programme, lay-bys are up to 1½ miles apart, which critics say is too far apart and means motorists who break down risk having to stop in a live lane.

(And where do they think the inhabitants of the 200,000 new houses to be built in the south of England will be driving?)

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### New cod war pits English against: Scots

Times 22/12/16: Ben Webster Oceans Correspondent

A cod war has erupted between English and Scottish fishermen over how shares, of fish stocks are allocated in the run-up to Brexit.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, which represents -the industry in England, has accused the government of taking cod quota from its members and promising it to Scotland to appease nationalists.

George Eustice, the fisheries minister, this month withheld 1,500 tonnes of the Arctic cod quota, which would normally go to trawlers in Humberside, after it was awarded to the UK in an annual fishing deal with Norway.

Scottish fishermen now expect to benefit from this quota, worth almost £3million, to help them to cope with the introduction of the EU'S ban on discarding unwanted fish.

The federation also claims that the English North Sea whitefish fleet would end up being controlled by the Scottish government under a new "fisheries concordat" agreed between Westminster and the devolved administrations.

Barrie Deas, the trade body's chief executive, said: "All this is being done behind closed doors, in secret. English fishing interests are being systematically traded away to appease the clamour from Scotland. It stinks."

Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, defended Mr Eustice's decision, saying that his members might need it to avoid being forced to stop fishing. -

Mr Eustice said he had placed extra Arctic cod quota into a fund to help fishermen to cope with the ban on discarded fish.

*(This is not a new problem back in 2004 we noted Scotland's self interest in our 'Reasons why we need an English Parliament' and in 2008 the CEP tried to alert Barrie Deas to this ongoing problem. We received no response. However it has come back to bite them. Below is our excerpt from 'Reasons' and our press release in 2008. Ed.)*

### Scottish Minister intends to flout EU rules to benefit Scotland

BBC News Scotland, January 2004 "Talks on EU fish catches deal: Deputy Fisheries' Minister (in the Scottish Executive of the Scottish Parliament) Allan Wilson has said he is "pulling out all the stops" to secure a better deal for the Scottish fleet. Negotiations with the European Commission are continuing. The Scottish Executive is seeking quota changes to allow fishermen improved access to haddock stocks".

*(EU rules give fishing quotas to the UK, not to the individual nations but those rules can be influenced by Ministers from Scotland who can also represent the UK in Brussels. No-one can represent English interests in Brussels. The Campaign for an English Parliament states that this is a denial of democracy. Since fish quotas are allocated to the UK as a whole, what influence should a Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) have on negotiations over UK fish quotas, particularly if the areas to be fished are in question? Ed)*

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO), which represents fishermen in the rest of the UK, as Scotland has a separate organisation, responded in August 2008 to the Scottish Executive's Consultation on a Separate Quota System in Scotland stating: "We have made clear that it is completely unacceptable and almost certainly illegal for the Scottish Executive to unilaterally define "Scottish quota." Clearly this is a matter that will have to be resolved either at a high political level or in the Courts.

.....If, in the face of opposition from significant parts of the Scottish fishing industry, legal challenges and whatever position Defra eventually takes, the Scottish Executive decides to proceed with its proposals, we are in for a torrid time. As there is no question of allowing the Scottish Executive to impose its will unilaterally, we must enter difficult negotiations on the terms of the divorce".

### In 2008 the Scotsman reported: Manx protest at fisheries policy

IT IS ironic that Fisheries secretary Richard Lockhead has always promoted the injustice of England, through Defra, controlling fisheries in Scotland when he perceives that Scotland can do the job better on its own. Ironic because Richard Lockhead has used these same iniquities against the Isle of Man in recent fisheries policy.

The Isle of Man has a document called the Fisheries Management Agreement, and any time that the island wants to change fisheries policy in its 3-12 Territorial Seas, it needs the concurrence of all of the rest of the devolved states. Lockhead recently vetoed a proposal by the Manx government to reduce fishing effort for scallops in Manx waters because it did not suit his own fisheries policy. This was a blatant act of post-colonial colonialism from a party that wants Scotland to break away from the United Kingdom.



Atlantic cod

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Quite incredible hypocrisy!

The Scottish National Party has been very vocal about how Scotland should not be pushed around by England. Perhaps the Scottish Government, therefore, should not be pushing round the Isle of Man.

Thomas Bryan-Brown, chief executive, Manx Fish Producers Organisation

*(At least the Isle of Man has a voice in the British/Irish Council which we in England don't! Ed.)*

**The Scottish Parliament fisheries minister is trying to impose regulations that will discriminate against UK fishermen that are not from Scotland.**

Severin Carroll in the Guardian of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 reported that Scottish nationalist fisheries minister, Richard Lochhead, has introduced a moratorium on the sale of quotas held by Scottish trawlers while he carries out a controversial review of fishing licences and quota controls which could greatly restrict the rights of English vessels to fish in Scottish waters.

Scottish nationalist ministers in Edinburgh have been accused of illegally trying to seize control of fish stocks after imposing a unilateral ban on the sale of fishing quotas to non-Scottish skippers. Barrie Deas, the chief executive of the York-based National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, NFFO (Scotland has a separate organisation) said "This move is provocative, highly irresponsible and probably illegal. There is no such thing as Scottish or English quota. There is UK quota. If the Scottish executive has any doubts over this, a brief telephone call to the European commission should allay any doubts."

In an email to the NFFO Scilla Cullen (then) Chairman of the Campaign for an English Parliament reminded Barrie Deas that part of the devolution settlement allows a Scottish representative to speak for the whole of the UK at the EU and in other forums.

*(In 2010 David, there's plenty of Scottish blood in my veins, Cameron allowing a Scottish Nationalist to represent us in England even though the Nationalists' avowed intention is always to put Scotland first. I contacted my MP Peter Lilley about this. The government response was the deliberation was about mackerel, mainly fished by the Scottish industry. Ed)*

**David Cameron allows SNP to 'speak for' Britain in EU talks**

Daily telegraph 27 Sep 2010: Simon Johnson, Scottish Political Editor

David Cameron has overruled one of his Cabinet ministers and allowed the SNP to 'speak for' Britain during international negotiations for the first time. He allowed an SNP minister to speak for Britain in EU talks for the first time as part of his 'respect agenda'

The Prime Minister gave the green light to Richard Lochhead, the SNP Fisheries Minister, leading the UK delegation in EU talks to resolve an international row dubbed the "mackerel wars".

He rejected the decision by Caroline Spelman, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, for a junior farming minister with no responsibility for fisheries to make Britain's case.

It is a symbolic victory for Alex Salmond, the Scottish First Minister, who said that Mr Cameron has agreed devolved ministers should speak at future European council meetings, where appropriate.

He wrote to the Prime Minister on Sunday lobbying for the change, arguing the decision by the Faroes and Iceland to unilaterally hike their mackerel quotas predominantly affected Scottish fishermen.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) wanted Jim Paice, a junior farming minister, to lead the UK delegation on this, and initially rejected SNP calls for their man to replace him. A Downing Street spokesman confirmed Mr Cameron personally overruled this decision. A spokesman said: "It was agreed in this instance Richard Lochhead was able to do it but this agreement was in regard to one item on the agenda."

Speaking after separate talks with Mr Cameron, Mr Salmond said it was agreed devolved ministers should attend and speak at future EU meetings and, where appropriate, represent the UK delegation.

"I look forward to the respect dividend bringing benefits of EU meetings across subjects such as fisheries, agriculture, justice, energy, culture and the great many other areas where Scotland has real expertise and valuable contributions to make," he said.

*(This is in direct contravention of the Act of Union which states in Article III "That the United Kingdom of Great Britain be represented by one and the same Parliament, to be styled the Parliament of Great Britain". Not only is the SNP committed to independence and hence the dissolution of the UK but also dedicated to put Scotland's interests first. David Cameron is reportedly vehemently opposed to the break-up of the UK so why did he condone an action supporting it by appointing such a person to this role and how can such a person represent the*

- **Scottish National Party**  
*Pàrtaidh Nàiseanta na h-Alba*
- *Scots National Pairtie*

The logo for the Scottish National Party (SNP) features the letters 'SNP' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized 'X' symbol that incorporates a white saltire (the Scottish flag) within its right vertical stroke.

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interests of the whole UK and in particular English fisheries? We hear that Mr. Cameron has appointed this UK MP as part of his 'respect' agenda but where is his respect for the interests of English fishermen? Why should our fishermen be represented in the EU by someone who is expressly supporting the interests of Scottish fisheries? David Cameron, a so-called 'English' MP appointed a member of a Parliament in which we have no representation to speak for us in the EU on fisheries. This is the fisheries minister in the Scottish Parliament. It takes an unbelievable leap of the imagination to believe that he will not put the interests of Scotland before those of England. Ed.)

### Ministers 'sneak out' university fees hike

Sarah Harris: Daily Mail: 23/12/16

THE latest stage of a controversial rise in university tuition fees to £9,250 a year in England has been 'sneaked out' to avoid debate, critics claimed last night.

Details of the increase, affecting more than 500,000 students, were put on an obscure government website last week without any announcement from the Department for Education.

The move was condemned by Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs who said the DfE was trying to avoid public scrutiny.

Universities minister Jo Johnson announced in July that tuition fees will rise to £9,250 a year from next autumn and the increase could apply to students who have already started courses.

But the formal regulations\* enabling the introduction of higher fees were published last Thursday without being placed in the announcements section of the DfE's website that issues 'alerts' to interested parties.

The BBC's education website revealed last night that they were instead put on a government site, managed by the National Archives, where all legislation is held.

The DfE has denied suggestions it wanted to deflect attention from the increase, insisting the public could find the regulations on the government website.

But critics say people would be able to discover details only if they were tipped off to search this 'far-flung corner' of the legislation site. The DfE 'explanatory memorandum' is in effect the second stage in the process of introducing the fee increase. It gives the Government 40 days to bring the regulations before Parliament. MPs have the chance to object and force a debate in the Commons.

Gordon Marsden, Labour's shadow minister for further education, higher education and skills, accused the Government of trying to 'sneak out' the changes, saying this is the 'increase that doesn't like to speak its name'. He told the BBC: 'They are hellbent on keeping this increase as low-profile as possible as it's piling up debts on students.'

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron added: 'This is a shabby little way to announce something, hiding it away in a far-flung corner of a government website. 'This shows the Government at their worst, avoiding scrutiny and debate. They sneaked this out a couple of days before Christmas.' The DfE said: 'This was announced in July as a public statement to Parliament. To claim it has been "sneaked" out is ridiculous. Universities will not be able to increase their fees unless they have passed rigorous quality standards.'

- The main deadline for 2017 admissions is a few weeks away. In September it emerged that virtually every university in England planned to charge £9,250 fees next year in return for attempting to break a middle-class 'stranglehold' on places. Only two out of 123 higher education institutions ruled out increasing their charges from the current £9,000 a year.

In return for charging higher fees, universities will invest in helping minorities and working to recruit students from poor families.

Graduates in this country have the second highest average debt in the world after those in the United States, according to a report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Nine out of ten university leavers in England in 2014/15 had debts from student loans 'exceeding' £22,919, the OECD said.

\*The Higher Education (Higher Amount) (England) Regulations 2016 is a statutory instrument of the Higher Education Act 2004

### English politics: British/Irish council/The Wales Bill

#### 28th British-Irish Council Summit in Cardiff

25 November 2016: The First Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, hosted the twenty-eighth Summit meeting of the British-Irish Council in Cardiff today. The meeting was attended by Heads of



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Administration and Ministers from the eight Council administrations: the Irish and UK Governments; the devolved administrations of the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive; and the Governments of the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey.



This was the first meeting of the Council since it convened in July for an extraordinary Summit to discuss the outcome of the UK's referendum on membership of the EU. Today Ministers reflected on developments since that meeting and updated the Council on their activity, particularly with reference to relations between Member Administrations.

The Council reiterated their commitment to facilitating harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships among the people of these islands. (*How are they to do that if they have no way of addressing us in England? Ed.*)

### **British Irish Council Demography Report 2016**

For the purposes of this report, they refer to the UK as a Member Administration, but also include data and evidence for England, to sit alongside data being presented for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: (this is reflected in the colour code used in this report). The descriptions of historical trends and policy experience are cognizant of the range of devolved arrangements in place across the UK.

(*The map of the UK/Ireland presented shows England as a separate entity but England has no representation and there is very little in the report about England. This just shows how ridiculous the current constitution is! Ed.*)

### **England Not Represented at British-Irish Council Meeting**

From a member to [lettersed@irishtimes.com](mailto:lettersed@irishtimes.com)

Sir, Your correspondent John Temple of Dromiskin, Co. Louth (Irish Times, 26 July 2016), expresses his anger at the presence of the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, at the British-Irish Council Meeting in Cardiff in the presence of the leaders of Scotland, Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, Wales and Northern Ireland but in the absence of the British Prime Minister, Theresa May MP.

As is usually the case no reference is here made to England and the English, even though the British Prime Minister does not represent England any more than she represents Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Until the Irish accept the presence of England and the English in these discussions there will be no peace and no solution to these seemingly unending squabbles. I urge the Taoiseach to give the English a voice in the British-Irish Council even if the British continue to silence the voice of England.

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Wales Bill: Constitution Unit Monitor 64 / October 2016

The Wales Bill 2016 – which paves the way for Wales to move from a conferred- to a reserved-powers model of devolution – has now passed through the House of Commons and been introduced to the Lords. As has been discussed previously (see Monitor 62, pages 8–9), there was significant opposition to the original draft Wales Bill 2015. This led to several major changes. Key among these are the withdrawal of the 'necessity test', which would have meant the Assembly could legislate only when necessary for a 'devolved purpose', the shortening of the list of powers that are reserved to Westminster, and the removal of the requirement in the 2014 Wales Act for a referendum on the devolution of income tax powers.



This current version of the bill still faces serious challenges, discussed in a critical report from the Assembly's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee. But with the impending rush of legislation that will be required when Brexit gets into full swing, the UK government seems set on pushing the bill through in its current form.

House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution

Wales Bill: UK GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

"We welcome the decision to move the Welsh devolution settlement to a reserved powers model. This will place the Welsh settlement on the same footing as Scotland's devolution settlement, while allowing for variation which reflects the differing circumstances in each nation.

The Government's key aim in introducing the new reserved powers model is to make the Welsh devolution settlement clearer by delineating those powers which are reserved and those which are devolved. This will hopefully put an end to the squabbles over competence between Cardiff and Westminster that has characterised Welsh devolution in recent years. We expect the new model to enable the Welsh Government to focus on the job of improving the Welsh economy; securing more Welsh jobs; and improving

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public services in devolved areas.

'Permanence': This provision simply echoes an identical provision that Parliament has but recently chosen to enact in relation to Scotland. On that basis, this clause has the merit of bringing the Welsh devolution settlement into line with Scotland's and bringing a degree of consistency to the otherwise disparate and asymmetrical approaches taken to date.

Clause 1 is a statement in law of the acknowledged position that a National Assembly for Wales and a Welsh Government are permanent parts of the UK's constitutional arrangements. The clause also provides that the Assembly and the Welsh Government are not to be abolished except on the basis of a decision of the people of Wales voting in a referendum. Clause 1 does not seek to have any (and indeed has no) effect on the sovereignty of Parliament.

Where a Parliamentary Bill relates to a devolved matter the consent of the National Assembly will normally be obtained to the provision before it is enacted. The use of the word "normally" in the provision replicates the language of the convention in relation to Wales, and the language in section 2 of the Scotland Act 2016. The Government has always sought a legislative consent motion in the Assembly before Westminster passes a Bill applying in Wales in relation to matters we consider to be devolved. This has been part of the routine working arrangements between the UK Government and the Welsh Government, as reflected in Devolution Guidance Note 9 (DGN 9), and we expect this to continue."

(How different from the Government's attitude to England! EVEL has no permanence and they are quite happy for asymmetry to continue as long as England is the victim. Ed.)

England's hero: Fred Archer

Frederick James "Fred" Archer (11 January 1857 – 8 November 1886), also known by the nickname The Tin Man, was England's first sporting hero, champion jockey and five times winner of the Derby. He was, described as "the best all-round jockey that the turf has ever seen". He set records for the number of Champion Jockey titles (13), number of wins in a season (246) and number of race wins (2748) which remained unthreatened until the arrival of Steve Donoghue and Sir Gordon Richards well into the 20th-century.

Archer was Champion Jockey for 13 consecutive years until 1886, riding 2,748 winners from 8,084 starts. In 1885 he rode 246 winners, a record that wasn't broken until Gordon Richards' 1933 season. He won the Epsom Derby five times and won a total of 21 classic races.

Because of his height (5 ft 10in/1.78 m) Archer had to diet far more than other jockeys. This had an effect on his health and after suffering from depression following the death of his wife, Helen Rose, Fred committed suicide by shooting himself. Archer had been in a fever for several days and was being attended by his doctor. His sister visited him in his room and he asked her to send the nurse away. She then heard him say "Are they coming?" and saw he had the gun in his hand. Whilst she was struggling with him, he put the gun in his mouth and fired the revolver. The verdict of the jury at the inquest was: "That the deceased committed suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind". His death at the age of 29 occurred on 8 November 1886; his wife had died on 7 November, two years earlier.



Fred Archer caricature in Vanity Fair

England's history: The Battle of Ashdown - Alfred defeats the Danes

Reading, Berkshire The 8th of January 871 AD

Although the Battle of Ashdown was by no means decisive in the struggle against the Danes, it is important as demonstrating the ability of Alfred the Great, and as proof for the people of Wessex and beyond that the tide could be turned.



Alfred had been fighting the Danes with his brother King Ethelred since at least 868, when he would only have been 18 or 19. Mercia had fallen in spite of the West Saxon support, so by 871 the campaign had moved to Ethelred's own kingdom of Wessex.

The previous year the Danes had taken Reading, and used it for raiding the region at will. On January 4th 871 the Saxons attacked the invaders at Reading, but were repulsed and had to regroup in the Berkshire Downs.

Knowing the Danes would follow, Alfred took command of the situation, personally using the blowing stone on Blowingstone Hill to send a booming signal summoning men from all over the area to the defence of their lands.

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The two armies met on January 8th 871. Where they met is open to debate: that the fighting went on around an ancient thorn tree is agreed. Whether Ashdown (which probably refers to the whole of the downland), was fought near Uffington, or on the Ridgeway near to the village of Compton, is less certain. Both armies were organised in two divisions, the Saxons with Ethelred and Alfred as leaders, the Danes with two kings, Halfdan and Bagsecg commanding one and five earls the other.

When the Danes advanced at dawn Ethelred was at prayer in a nearby church. Alfred grasped the nettle and had his division charge the soldiers commanded by the Viking earls before the Danish battle plan could advance too far.

The battle was a huge mêlée, with the later arrival of Ethelred's men deciding things, the Saxons outnumbering their enemies significantly. In the subsequent rout many Danes were slaughtered, and during the day's fighting king Bagsecg and all five Danish earls died.

In spite of the victory the Danes were able to shelter in Reading and prepare a counter-attack that came swiftly and tellingly, with Danish victories at Basing in Hampshire, and Martin in Dorset where Ethelred would be fatally wounded, leaving his brother Alfred as king to continue the seemingly endless struggle with the Norsemen.

English culture: Church bells



The familiar sound of church bells on an English Sunday morning is created by ringing all the bells in the tower in a harmonious peal simultaneously, a tradition which goes back to the eighth century. However, change ringing, which is uniquely English, was made possible by the greater control that can be exercised when bells were hung for full circle ringing. The bells are 'rung up' which means they are balanced upright in preparation for ringing the changes. Each bell sounds a different note and the number of bells can vary - usually there are between 5 and 12. The individual bells often have nicknames or are dedicated to a particular saint. Many church bells are engraved with inscriptions, which tell the various uses to which they are put, when they were cast and by whom, some even display poems!

Bells are used to call people to prayer (which is why you'll hear them on Sundays so much) but also for weddings, other special occasions such as the end of a war, or just for bell ringing practice! Bell ringing is a popular English hobby - have you ever tried it? There are over 40,000 fans who would be happy to "show you the ropes"!

Promotion: English produce

We promote English labelled/flagged produce. (NB English produce labelled with a British flag will not be promoted)

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www.aldi.co.uk

ASDA: mustards, teas, ales, cider, apple sauce, honey, muffins, English Provender Company produce

<https://groceries.asda.com>

CO-OP: apples, pears, cider, teas

<http://www.co-operativefood.co.uk>

Iceland: ciders, mustard, tea

<http://groceries.iceland.co.uk/>

LIDL: No English produce listed but Scottish produce promoted.

<http://www.lidl.co.uk/en/13517.htm>

Marks and Spencer: wines, milk, whisky.

<http://www.marksandspencer.com/food-and-wine>

Morrison's: Ale, Honey, Quiche, Teas, English Provender Company products, marmalade, muffins

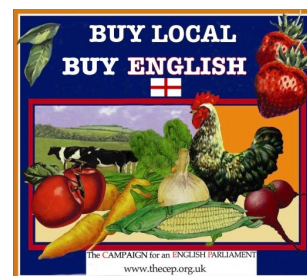
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Morrison's: Ale, Honey, Quiche, Teas, English Provender Company products, marmalade, muffins

<https://groceries.morrisons.com/webshop/>

TESCO: Mustards, teas, marmalade, English Provender Company products, ale/beer,

<http://www.tesco.com/>

Waitrose: English Provender Company products, cheeseboard, mustard, teas, butter, lamb, elderflower drink, bread, apple juice, goat's cheese, honey, cider/perry, trout, mint sauce, marmalade, potato vodka, crisps, ale, lager, raspberries, wine,

(unfortunately Waitrose English cheese now appears with a British flag and will no longer be promoted)

<http://www.waitrose.com/>

Seasonal recipe : Hearty root and barley soup Serves:6

Prep time:15 mins: Cooking time:50 mins: Total time:1 hr 5 mins

Woman's Weekly cheap and easy hearty root and barley soup is a great why of using seasonal vegetables and bargain buy meat. This cheap meal is great to keep both body and soul satisfied this winter. Packed with winter vegetables like carrot, swede and parsnips this broth is more like a small chicken stew in a bowl. Costing only £1.33 per serving, serve for a hearty, warming lunch or a simple dinner that is filling enough for the children. You could try this recipe with beef instead or use already cooked chicken for an even quicker meal. This recipe serves 6 people and if there's any left over, just pop in an airtight container and re-heat the next day. Serve with warm crusty bread.

Ingredients

1.5 litres chicken stock

4 chicken thighs on the bone, skinned, with fat removed (Using chicken thighs is much cheaper than using chicken breast)

1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped

2 small bay leaves and a few sprigs of thyme or rosemary

1kg mixed winter veg — we used carrot, turnip, swede, parsnip and celeriac

2 sticks celery

150g pearl barley

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Freshly chopped parsley, to garnish

Method

Bring the stock to the boil, then add the chicken thighs, onion and herbs. Cover and simmer over a low heat for 20 mins until the meat is tender.

Peel and chop all the winter vegetables and trim and chop the celery. Take the chicken out of the pan with a draining spoon and set it aside.

Put all the vegetables in the pan. Bring to the boil, then stir in the barley. Bring back to the boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer for about 30 mins or until the vegetables are tender.

Meanwhile, take the meat off the thigh bones, shred it and keep it warm. Season the soup and ladle it into bowls. Top with shreds of chicken and sprinkle with parsley. Serve with chunks of bread.



Join at www.thecep.org.uk or send name and address with cheque for £20 (£15 concessions) made out to The Campaign for an English Parliament to Ms P Cullen, 9 the Meadows, Breachwood Green, Hitchin, Herts., SG4 8PR

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