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Campaign for an English Parliament  
*The Voice of England*

# Think of England Number 73 : October 2017

## Championing England & Challenging Prejudice



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Number 73 October 2017

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**RECOMMENDED READING:** The Apple Orchard: The Story of our most English Fruit by Pete Brown, published by Penguin: Through the seasons in England's apple-growing heartlands, the stories and folklore of our most familiar fruit.



## 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:** Autumn is the time when villages up and down the country stage displays and competitions for homegrown vegetables and flowers. Churches hold harvest festivals in thankfulness for the harvest. In this latitude we can only expect one harvest and even that is reliant on the weather throughout the year. In some latitudes two or even three harvests are possible.



The Constitution Unit's results are highly speculative and demonstrate why the CEP has avoided any statement on a voting system for an English Parliament. However perhaps they show that an English Parliament would not be dominated by the Conservatives.

Imposed so-called devolution to local government continues in its incoherent way regardless of its inefficiency and the self interest of its apparatchiks. Localism will do nothing to stop the British exploitation of us in England. We now learn that we in England are not only short-changed by the British Government but the Big Lottery Fund are in on the scam as well. My own research has shown that other public lotteries also favour Scottish and Welsh charities. The Charity Commission website is a cornucopia of information!

One of the reasons given me in the past by a 'bien pensant' was that an English Parliament was impossible because of ancient legal and judicial ties with Wales. However there seems to be no problem for Wales to untie the knot. Why are those Departments of Government concerned with English affairs funding the rest of the world? Their counterparts in the rUK don't.

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## **Campaigning for England** : Electoral system for the English Parliament:

On 8th July 2017 The Campaign for an English Parliament supplied the following information to the Constitution Unit of the University of London: It is important to acknowledge that there are already different electoral systems for the existing devolved administrations which have been accepted without question. For the Unionist, choosing any particular system for an English Parliament without reforming the other devolved Parliament and Assemblies would simply add to the incoherence. It is advisable that a coherent electoral system throughout the whole of the UK is created otherwise the process towards national 'independence /separation' will continue.

The 3 other 'independent /separate' devolved electoral systems are listed to show the differences already in place:-

The Scottish Parliament uses an 'Additional Members System', designed to produce approximate 'Proportional Representation' for each region. There are 8 regions, each sub-divided into smaller constituencies. There is a total of 73 constituencies. Each constituency elects one MSP by the 'Plurality' (First Past the Post) system of election. Each region elects 7 additional MSPs using an 'Additional Member System'. A modified D'Hondt method using the constituency results is used to elect these additional MSPs.

The Welsh Assembly is made up of 60 members. Forty are elected using the first-past-the-post system in constituencies identical to Wales's Westminster seats. A further 20 are elected from five electoral regions - such as "North Wales", "South Wales", "Central", etc. - with four drawn from each region. These additional assembly members are chosen from party lists, with numbers decided according to a complicated PR system designed to reward parties that get a large spread of votes which is not concentrated enough to win constituencies outright. Voters, therefore, have two votes, which can be cast for different parties but need not be.

The Northern Ireland Assembly consists of 90 MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly), representing 18 constituencies. Assembly elections use a system of Proportional Representation (PR) known as Single Transferable Vote (STV). STV is also used in elections to Northern Ireland Local Government (Councils) and in elections in the Republic of Ireland.

For the stability and cohesion of the United Kingdom, the electoral systems for all the devolved administrations should be the same. This is a problem for the United Kingdom Parliament and for any UK Constitutional Convention to accept and reform

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**The Constitution Unit**

**Constitution Unit Research:** Excerpts from a post on September 1, 2017 by The Constitution Unit *Ongoing Constitution Unit research is exploring options for an English Parliament. One essential question for such a body is the choice of electoral system. In this post **Jack Sheldon** and **Meg Russell** focus on the possible implications of using FPTP as compared to using AMS or another proportional system. They conclude that the choice of system would have substantial effects on an English Parliament's likely political dynamics.*

Since last autumn we have been working on a research project exploring the options for an English Parliament. Although there have been various calls over the last 20 years to establish such a body, how might it actually work in practice? One question that would need to be addressed is the choice of electoral system. In this post we focus on the possible implications of alternative systems.

**Models for an English Parliament and likely electoral systems:** Our research has identified two primary models for an English Parliament. Some proponents, including Conservative MPs John Redwood and Andrew Rosindell, want a 'dual mandate' body, whereby members of the UK House of Commons sitting for English constituencies would meet as the English Parliament on certain days. This clearly implies that members of the English Parliament would be chosen by first past the post (FPTP), at least so long as it continues to be used for UK general elections.

The alternative model is for a separately-elected English Parliament, equivalent to the existing devolved legislatures elsewhere in the UK. Proponents of this kind of change have generally said little about the choice of electoral system. FPTP has not been used for any new institutions in recent years and so a proportional system is more likely. AMS is used in both Scotland and Wales, and given these precedents it seems the most likely system to be adopted. A major part of the rationale for establishing an English Par-

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liament is to bring more coherence and symmetry to the UK's constitutional arrangements. UKIP's 2017 election manifesto, which included a proposal for a separately-elected English Parliament, explicitly suggested that an English Parliament should be elected under AMS, while in correspondence with the authors senior Campaign for an English Parliament figures have stated that 'the electoral systems for all the devolved administrations should be the same'.

**Party support in England:** The starting point for assessing the implications of using different electoral systems is the historic pattern of party support in England. The table shows vote shares for each general election since 1945, together with vote shares in Great Britain as a whole at the same elections. The Conservatives typically perform slightly better in England than in Great Britain. Nonetheless Labour have won a plurality of the English vote (shaded grey) in their strongest years, most recently in 1997 and 2001. Notably, no party has won more than 50 per cent of the English vote since 1959.

**Table: Vote share in UK general elections, 1945–2017 (GB vote shares in brackets)**

| Election | Con         | Lab         | Lib*        | Other       |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1945     | 40.3 (39.3) | 48.6 (48.8) | 9.3 (9.2)   | 1.9 (2.6)   |
| 1950     | 43.8 (42.9) | 46.1 (46.8) | 9.4 (9.3)   | 0.6 (1.0)   |
| 1951     | 48.8 (47.8) | 48.8 (49.4) | 2.3 (2.6)   | 0.1 (0.3)   |
| 1955     | 50.3 (49.2) | 46.8 (47.4) | 2.6 (2.8)   | 0.3 (0.7)   |
| 1959     | 50.0 (48.8) | 43.6 (44.6) | 6.3 (6.0)   | 0.1 (0.7)   |
| 1964     | 44.0 (42.9) | 43.5 (44.8) | 12.1 (11.4) | 0.4 (0.9)   |
| 1966     | 42.7 (41.4) | 47.8 (48.7) | 9.0 (8.6)   | 0.5 (1.2)   |
| 1970     | 48.3 (46.2) | 43.2 (43.8) | 7.9 (7.6)   | 0.5 (2.3)   |
| Feb 1974 | 40.1 (38.6) | 37.7 (38.0) | 21.3 (19.8) | 1.0 (3.5)   |
| Oct 1974 | 38.8 (36.6) | 40.1 (40.2) | 20.2 (18.8) | 1.0 (4.4)   |
| 1979     | 47.2 (44.9) | 36.7 (37.7) | 14.9 (14.1) | 1.2 (3.3)   |
| 1983     | 46.0 (43.5) | 26.9 (28.3) | 26.4 (26.0) | 0.7 (2.2)   |
| 1987     | 46.1 (43.2) | 29.5 (31.5) | 23.8 (23.1) | 0.5 (2.2)   |
| 1992     | 45.5 (42.8) | 33.9 (35.2) | 19.2 (18.3) | 1.4 (3.7)   |
| 1997     | 33.7 (31.5) | 43.5 (44.3) | 18.0 (17.2) | 4.8 (7.1)   |
| 2001     | 35.2 (32.6) | 41.4 (42.0) | 19.4 (18.8) | 3.9 (6.6)   |
| 2005     | 35.7 (33.3) | 35.5 (36.1) | 22.9 (22.6) | 5.9 (8.0)   |
| 2010     | 39.5 (36.9) | 28.1 (29.7) | 24.2 (23.6) | 8.2 (9.9)   |
| 2015     | 41.0 (37.7) | 31.6 (31.2) | 8.2 (8.1)   | 19.3 (23.2) |
| 2017     | 45.4 (43.4) | 41.9 (41.0) | 7.8 (7.6)   | 4.9 (8.0)   |

Source: House of Commons Library, *UK Election Statistics: 1918–2017*.

**First past the post:** A dual mandate English Parliament would simply comprise members of the House of Commons elected for English constituencies. The first past the post voting system has tended historically to disproportionately reward the strongest party (and indeed both main parties compared to others), so the Conservatives have historically performed strongly in English seats.

**Results of UK general elections in English constituencies, 1945–2017:** Source: Meg Russell and Guy Lodge, 'The government of England by Westminster', in Robert Hazell (ed.), *The English Question* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006), p. 71; updated to 2017 with figures from House of Commons Library, *UK Election Statistics: 1918–2017*.

Across these 20 elections there are six exceptions, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2017. In each case it is the Conservatives whose position is strengthened in an English Parliament. The past is not necessarily a good guide to the future but these results highlight how clashing majorities across the two institutions could occur if there were a dual mandate English Parliament. Dual mandate advocates do not envisage that there would be a separate English government held accountable by the English Parliament and there would be no formal confidence arrangement. But in practice oversized majorities (i.e. including other parties) might sometimes be needed for a Labour government to get its business agreed by a dual mandate English Parliament. These results help to explain why various Conservatives have expressed an interest in establishment of an English Parliament, whereas Labour politicians have been less enthusiastic. It is interesting to explore how a different electoral system changes the dynamics.

**AMS and other proportional systems:** The additional member system (AMS, sometimes also called mixed member plurality, or MMP) combines single member constituencies with members elected through party lists to enhance proportionality. The outcomes that it would produce for England would depend to a large extent on the detail of how the system was designed. In particular, a higher proportion of list seats and larger electoral regions allow for greater rebalancing of constituency results.

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We have modelled possible AMS outcomes in England for the past six general elections, assuming that the same number of members would be elected as currently represent England in the House of Commons, for comparison with the results above (in practice a separately-elected English Parliament would likely be smaller than this). In terms of balance between constituency and list seats, we took the average of the ratio in Scotland and in Wales (which makes constituency seats 61.6%) and we used the existing European Parliament regions as list areas. Other highly simplifying assumptions are that within each list area constituency seats would have been won in the same proportion as the actual FPTP share, and that list votes would have been cast in the same proportion as actual FPTP votes. In reality people may vote differently under alternative systems, but this offers a rough approximation of the political dynamics of an English Parliament elected by AMS.



**Projected results of UK general elections in England under AMS, 1997–2017:** Calculations by the authors, drawing on election results data from House of Commons Library and other sources. List seat calculations made using Stephen Kellow's D'Hondt calculator, available at <https://blog.stevenkellow.com/excel-dhondt-proportional-representation-calculator/>, last accessed 18 August 2017.

The outcomes indicate that (despite the system not being fully proportional) the lack of a majority among the electorate leads to no party winning a majority in England in any of the six elections. While Labour had a majority of FPTP seats in England in 1997, 2001 and 2005, and the Conservatives achieved the same in 2010, 2015 and 2017, the proportional rebalancing through the list seats under this system (if the assumptions held) would have consistently resulted in a 'hung' English Parliament. The geographical breakdown demonstrates how AMS could enable the main parties to win seats in English regions where they gain relatively little representation under FPTP. This benefits Labour in the South East and South West, for example, and the Conservatives in the North East and North West.

### **Regional breakdown of projection of results of 2017 general election in England under AMS:**

The most obvious consequences of these differences to FPTP concern government formation. While in a dual mandate English Parliament based on FPTP Labour and the Conservatives would each have had a majority in three consecutive elections, a separately-elected institution using this version of AMS would have resulted in minority or coalition government for England. From 1997 Labour was clearly the largest party, so may have been the most likely leader of such a government, and in 2010 the Conservatives entered this position. Throughout most of this period either could, according to our modelling, have formed a majority government in partnership with the Liberal Democrats. In 2015 a Labour-led coalition would have fallen short of a majority, even if joined by the Greens, but the Conservatives could only have governed with support from either the Liberal Democrats or UKIP. The 2017 result is particularly interesting – with the two main parties very equally balanced. These are clearly quite different political dynamics to those in a dual mandate English Parliament.

Other proportional systems are less likely to be adopted for an English Parliament, for reasons already given above. Their political outcomes would be similar to those under AMS – hung parliaments would be likely to be the norm and representation would be more balanced across the English regions than under FPTP.

**Conclusion:** There are two distinct models for an English Parliament proposed by supporters of this idea, which have different implications for the electoral system, and would have very different results in terms of political dynamics. Whilst on the basis of recent results the Conservatives could be expected to have a majority most of the time in a 'dual mandate' English Parliament, a separately-elected English Parliament using AMS would usually be hung, requiring minority or coalition governments. This could bring significant advantages for Labour as well as other parties. The establishment of an English Parliament has more often been a demand from those on the Conservative side of politics than those on the left. But it should not be assumed that an English Parliament would necessarily be a Conservative-leaning institution.

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## English Affairs and English Politics are issues that should be decided only by an English Parliament

**Current English Affairs:** Local Government! Charity discrimination

**The incompetent tyranny of local government is a serious cause for concern**

Daily Telegraph, 9/9/17: Simon Heffer Comment

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Bin collection has, in many areas, become an occasional rather than a regular event. As we drive along miles of pot-holed roads this weekend, the boots of our cars crammed with fetid rubbish, engaging in that now traditional leisure activity of visiting the municipal dump, we might be forgiven for wondering what the point of local government is these days. For years, the only benefit many of us felt we obtained from our councils was having our bins emptied and, perhaps, driving from A to B without wrecking a tyre or breaking an axle. As such things appear mainly to belong to the past, what are we paying for?



Councils that promised weekly rubbish collections suddenly, without warning or consultation, and often just after re-election, move to fortnightly ones. Fines are then introduced for failing to adhere to exacting instructions. Stoke-on-Trent city council recently warned residents that they faced a possible £2,500 fine under anti-social behaviour laws, never intended for such a purpose, for leaving their bin on the road at a time when it was not being collected, or for overfilling it. (A business guilty of these heinous offences could be fined £20,000.) Local authorities claim they are keen to recycle, but don't collect the material, despite the fact that for many people, a trip to the dump – sorry, recycling centre – is difficult, as they are closed in the evenings and by the weekend the bin is overflowing. Elderly people who don't drive or can't drive, have a serious problem.

Of course it is a caricature to say that local councils are just about bins and potholes. Notably, they also provide social care, the growing problem of which central government has failed to take proper cognisance, ever since David Cameron idiotically ignored the Dilnot report on how to fund it in 2011: one of the most shamefully negligent acts by an administration that pullulated with them. The cost of social care has increased by 8.6 per cent in the past year, because of the growing numbers of elderly, and we have seen nothing yet.

And, while councils used to do useful things – not just filling in holes or emptying bins (which now appears to be an imposition upon a local authority rather than a service it provides) – but also providing a visible police force, trying to prevent abuse of children or maintaining public libraries, these also appear to be evaporating. This is thanks to the cuts necessary to repair the damage caused by the last Labour government's spending binge a decade ago, when the public sector was used as a job creation scheme as Gordon Brown strove to massage the unemployment figures.

But it's not just our council tax that we shell out for the unemptied bins and unfilled potholes. That sum raises just 29 per cent of total revenue expenditure by local government, which for the current year is estimated to be £94.5 billion in England alone. Retained business rates account for another 15.5 per cent, but central grants – taxpayers, in other words – cover the remaining 53 per cent. With the exception of certain "pilot authorities" (mostly in metropolitan districts) where everything spent locally is allegedly raised locally, the 2017-18 Local Government Plan says that 50 per cent of what is spent comes from local funding, and 50 per cent from central. The reality is that complicated formulae reflecting an absurd level of bureaucracy are used to decide who gets what.

There is too much local government. Pointy-headed theorists have banged on about localism, but all that is missing is evidence that "local" people are either motivated or capable enough to deliver "local" services. The best way to deliver "localism" is to take councils out of the equation altogether, as has been done in many cases by removing schools from their control. There may well be other services that can be supplied with direct accountability to Whitehall: but those that cannot need to be provided by a rationalised form of local government.

If services are to be provided efficiently there needs to be strategic planning, so unitary authorities seem to make sense. For example: district councils handle planning issues that then require county councils to build roads or provide other services for inhabitants of new developments. It would be better if one council did everything. Abolishing district councils and transferring their responsibilities to counties would save money on payroll, allow economies of scale, and simplify the relationship with Whitehall. Many district councils routinely pay their chief executives more than the £150,000 a year the prime minister earns, which is ludicrous given their comparative responsibilities.

With a view to the near future – to avoiding the chaos that will come in 2039, when one in 12 Britons will be over 80, and many of them will require full-time care – the government must revisit Dilnot and develop an insurance scheme that will encourage private providers to take over what threatens to become a crippling state responsibility. We quite rightly rage about our wheelie bins now, but they will soon be the least of our problems.

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## **Squabbling councils cause Yorkshire devolution deal to collapse**

The Times, 20/9/17: Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Government plans to devolve powers from Whitehall to the English regions suffered a blow yesterday after local rivalries in Yorkshire scuppered a £900 million deal. Doncaster and Barnsley councils announced they were pulling out of a wider Sheffield city region deal after what was described as a brief, heated meeting of council leaders. Their decision means that the councils will forgo millions of pounds a year from Whitehall that had been designated as a sweetener to encourage the deals to go ahead. The original plan would have given the region £30 million annually for the next 30 years and greater control over spending in areas including economic development, training and transport. Sheffield and Rotherham are still expected to go ahead and elect a new metro mayor next year but now their only extra power will be to regulate buses. Devolution of spending over areas such as transport and skills has been a major part of the northern powerhouse and Midlands Engine projects to revitalise deprived industrial regions. So far only six areas have elected metro mayors, despite government hopes to have many more deals signed.

Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, was sceptical about the "One Yorkshire" plan in a letter to all Yorkshire authorities last week, warning that Barnsley and Doncaster would be unable to join in any pan-Yorkshire deal. A government spokesman expressed disappointment at the councils' decision, adding: "We have been absolutely clear that we will not consider a deal for the whole of Yorkshire?"

Council infighting has infuriated those in Whitehall who have been working to put together devolution deals. One person involved said they had found it amazing "how stupid and self-interested" many of the councillors that they dealt with were. They added they were more interested in protecting their own power bases than improving services and economic development in their areas.



## **English charities 'get almost 50 per cent less lottery cash per head than Scottish counterparts'**

Daily Telegraph, 8/9/17: Telegraph Reporters

The Big Lottery Fund handed English causes £510 million last year, the equivalent of £9.32 a head, while in Scotland, they received a total of £76 million, or £14.04 a head.

Nadine Dorries, the Tory MP, has demanded a review into the disparity, asking how the Big Lottery Fund shares out profits from ticket sales. She told the Daily Mail: "The Scots already get far more than the English in terms of public spending - so why do they get so much lottery money on top of this?"

"This needs to be looked at urgently. The union is precious but this is too much." Fellow Conservative MP Andrew Bridgen, who has complained that the East Midlands region in which his constituency lies has been overlooked for lottery funding, agreed that people would be "shocked". "It would appear that Scotland wins the lottery every year," he said.

The Big Lottery Fund's annual report reportedly shows that spending in Wales, at £14.29 a head, and in Northern Ireland at £14.21 per person, is on a par with Scotland.

Peter Bone, Tory MP for Wellingborough, said: "The Big Lottery Fund needs to look more carefully at how they distribute money. "There are plenty of good causes in my constituency. "The Scottish already get far more in public money per head of population than the English, so you'd think in that case they'd be getting less lottery money. This is the sort of thing that annoys people in my area who are struggling to get by."

A spokesman for the Big Lottery Fund said: "Population is one key factor we take into consideration when determining our funding, but we do so alongside other social and economic factors. "We continually review the allocation of our funding to ensure people across the UK can access it, and that it makes the biggest possible difference to people and communities."



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**English politics:** Separation of English and Welsh law, foreign aid from English Departments,

## **Outgoing Lord Chief Justice to chair new justice commission for Wales**

By The Law Society Gazette newsdesk | 8 September 2017

A Commission on Justice in Wales is to be established that will be chaired by the outgoing lord chief justice, first minister of Wales Carwyn Jones announced today. The new body will review the justice system and policing in Wales, and 'consider how the system can achieve better outcomes'.

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The development comes as devolved Wales develops a growing body of distinct Welsh law, which has so far effected major changes in areas ranging from social services to residential property. A replacement for stamp duty land tax, introduced by the Welsh government last September and hailed as the first Welsh tax in 800 years, is one headline example.

Jones said the commission will deal with 'unfinished business' from the cross-party Commission on Devolution in Wales - known as The Silk Commission. The commission, established in 2011 to look at the future of the devolution settlement in Wales, produced a string of recommendations in respect of justice covering the courts, probation, prisons and youth justice. The new justice commission will also address crucial issues 'relating to the legal jurisdiction and the challenges facing the legal services sector in Wales'.

Whether devolution in Wales should be accompanied by the establishment of a wholly separate jurisdiction remains a subject of fierce debate in the country, including among lawyers.

Jones said: 'In Wales, we have had a separate legislature for six years but, as yet, we do not have our own jurisdiction. By establishing the Commission on Justice in Wales, we are taking an important first step towards developing a distinctive justice system which is truly representative of Welsh needs. 'The commission will consider how we can do things differently in Wales and identify options to develop a distinct Welsh justice system, which improves people's access to justice, reduces crime and promotes rehabilitation.'

He added: 'I am delighted that Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd will chair the commission when he steps down as lord chief justice in October. Having risen to the heights of the judiciary in Wales and England, Lord Thomas commands universal respect and brings his unprecedented wealth of experience to this important role.'

Lord Thomas said: 'I am very pleased to take on this challenge. As a small developing jurisdiction, Wales offers unique opportunities to identify new solutions to the complex challenges facing justice and the legal profession. These are crucial to Wales' future prosperity and I hope the commission will make a valuable contribution to addressing them.'

A Law Society spokesperson said: 'We look forward to engaging with the Commission on Justice in Wales as it considers options to develop a distinct Welsh Justice system and a legal services sector at the forefront of digital and artificial intelligence changes.'



### **(English) Government departments 'struggling' to spend their foreign aid budgets**

Daily Telegraph, 18/7/17: Laura Hughes, political correspondent, Gordon Rayner, political editor  
Government departments are "struggling" to spend all of the overseas aid money they have been allocated, the spending watchdog has said, prompting fresh demands for the foreign aid target to be scrapped. A National Audit Office (NAO) report raised concerns that money is being wasted because of the "rush" by civil servants to hit the legal requirement of spending 0.7 per cent of the nation's income on overseas aid.

Tory MPs accused the Government of needlessly spending money to meet "artificial targets" after the report revealed five out of 11 departments spent more than half their annual aid budget in the last few weeks of the year to meet financial deadlines.

Meanwhile Oxfam said departments were "falling short" in the way they handle taxpayers' money.

While many Government departments have faced cuts in their budgets, foreign aid spending has soared as the economy has grown because of a promise written into law by David Cameron to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on aid.

Theresa May has faced repeated calls to cut foreign aid spending - which hit more than £13 billion last year - in order to fund public services at home.

It follows a series of controversies over taxpayers' money being spent on projects such as an Ethiopian pop group and "exporting the dole to Pakistan", as one MP put it.

The NAO report said that while the Department for International Development (DfID) had improved its management of aid money, it only accounts for 74 per cent of spending, with the other 26 per cent spread across other departments and bodies.

The (English) Departments of Health; Culture, Media and Sport; Energy and Climate Change; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the cross-departmental Prosperity Fund were named as the five departments that "struggled" to spend their share of the aid money within the last financial year.'

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**England's heroes/heroines:** The Rev Dr **Nevil Maskelyne** DD FRS FRSE (6 October 1732 – 9 February 1811) was the fifth British Astronomer Royal and held the office from 1765 to 1811. He was the first person to measure scientifically the weight of the Earth.

He was born in London, the third son of Edmund Maskelyne of Purton, Wiltshire, who died when he was 12, leaving the family in reduced circumstances. He attended Westminster School and was still a pupil there when his mother died in 1748. His interest in astronomy had begun while at the school, shortly after the eclipse of 14 July 1748. Maskelyne entered St Catharine's College, Cambridge in 1749, graduating in 1754. Ordained as a minister in 1755, he became a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge in 1756 and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1758.



Originally pursuing his career as a minister he was Rector of Shrawardine from 1775 to 1782 and then Rector of North Runcton from 1782. He is buried in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, the parish church of the village of Purton, Wiltshire, England.

**Measurement of longitude:** In 1760 the Royal Society appointed Maskelyne as an astronomer on one of their expeditions to the island of St. Helena to observe the 1761 transit of Venus. This was an important observation since accurate measurements would allow the precise calculation of Earth's distance from the Sun, which would in turn permit the actual rather than the relative scale of the solar system to be calculated. This would enable, it was argued, the production of more accurate astronomical tables, in particular those predicting the motion of the Moon.

Bad weather prevented observation of the transit, but Maskelyne used his journey to trial a method of determining longitude using the position of the moon, which became known as the lunar distance method. He returned to England, resuming his position as curate at Chipping Barnet in 1761 and, in 1763, began work on a book, *The British Mariner's Guide*, to publish the lunar-distance method of longitude calculation and to provide tables to facilitate its use, which included the suggestion that to facilitate the finding of longitude at sea, lunar distances should be calculated beforehand for each year and published in a form accessible to navigators.

In 1763 the Board of Longitude sent Maskelyne to Barbados in order to carry out an official trial of three contenders for a Longitude reward. He was to carry out observations on board ship and to calculate the longitude of the capital, Bridgetown, by observation of Jupiter's satellites. The three methods on trial were John Harrison's sea watch, Tobias Mayer's lunar tables and a marine chair made by Christopher Irwin, intended to help observations of Jupiter's satellites on board ship. Both Harrison's watch and lunar-distance observations based on Mayer's lunar tables produced results within the terms of the Longitude Act, although the former appeared to be more accurate. Harrison's watch had produced Bridgetown's longitude with an error of less than ten miles, while the lunar-distance observations were accurate to within 30 nautical miles.

Maskelyne reported the results of the trial to the Board of Longitude on 9 February 1765 and on 26 February 1765 he was appointed Astronomer Royal making him *ex officio* a Commissioner of Longitude. The Commissioners understood that the timekeeping and astronomical methods of finding longitude were complementary. The lunar-distance method could more quickly be rolled out with Maskelyne's proposal that tables like those in his "The British Mariner's Guide" be published for each year. This proposal led to the establishment of The Nautical Almanac. Taking even occasional astronomical observations was also the only way to check that a timekeeper was keeping good time over the course of a long voyage. The Commissioners also needed to know that more than one sea watch could be made and that Harrison's methods could be communicated to other watchmakers.

The Board of Longitude therefore decided that rewards should be given Harrison (£10,000), Mayer (£3000, posthumously) and others involved in helping to develop the lunar-distance method. Maskelyne was to play a significant role in having marine timekeepers, as well as the lunar-distance method, developed, tested and used on board voyages of exploration.

Since the observations that fed into the Nautical Almanac were made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the Greenwich meridian became the reference for measurements of longitude in the Royal Navy and on British Admiralty charts. It was recommended for adoption as the international Prime Meridian in 1884.

**Measurement of latitude:** Maskelyne took a great interest in various geodetical operations, including the measurement of the length of a degree of latitude in Maryland and Pennsylvania, executed by Mason and Dixon in 1766 – 1768, and later the determination of the relative longitude of Greenwich and Paris. On the French side the work was conducted by Count Cassini, Legendre,

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and Méchain; on the English side by General Roy. This triangulation was the beginning of the great trigonometrical survey that was subsequently extended all over Britain. His observations appeared in four large folio volumes from 1776–1811.

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**England's history:** The **Battle of Hastings** was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of William, the Duke of Normandy, and an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson, beginning the Norman conquest of England. It took place approximately 7 miles northwest of Hastings, close to the present-day town of Battle, East Sussex, and was a decisive Norman victory.

The background to the battle was the death of the childless King Edward the Confessor in January 1066, which set up a succession struggle between several claimants to his throne. Harold was crowned king shortly after Edward's death, but faced invasions by William, his own brother Tostig and the Norwegian King Harald Hardrada (Harold III of Norway). Hardrada and Tostig defeated a hastily gathered army of Englishmen at the Battle of Fulford on 20 September 1066, and were in turn defeated by Harold at the Battle of Stamford Bridge five days later. The deaths of Tostig and Hardrada at Stamford Bridge left William as Harold's only serious opponent. While Harold and his forces were recovering, William landed his invasion forces in the south of England at Pevensey on 28 September 1066 and established a beachhead for his conquest of the kingdom. Harold was forced to march south swiftly, gathering forces as he went.



*Harold Rex Interfectus Est:*  
"King Harold was killed". Scene from

The exact numbers present at the battle are unknown; modern estimates are around 10,000 for William and about 7,000 for Harold. The composition of the forces is clearer; the English army was composed almost entirely of infantry and had few archers, whereas only about half of the invading force was infantry, the rest split equally between cavalry and archers. Harold appears to have tried to surprise William, but scouts found his army and reported its arrival to William, who marched from Hastings to the battlefield to confront Harold. The battle lasted from about 9 am to dusk. Early efforts of the invaders to break the English battle lines had little effect; therefore, the Normans adopted the tactic of pretending to flee in panic and then turning on their pursuers. Harold's death, probably near the end of the battle, led to the retreat and defeat of most of his army. After further marching and some skirmishes, William was crowned as king on Christmas Day 1066.

There continued to be rebellions and resistance to William's rule, but Hastings effectively marked the culmination of William's conquest of England. Casualty figures are hard to come by, but some historians estimate that 2,000 invaders died along with about twice that number of Englishmen. William founded a monastery at the site of the battle, the high altar of the abbey church supposedly placed at the spot where Harold died.

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**English culture:** Cider making in England

There are many local cider and apple festivals in October for instance at Killerton in Devon and the Cider Museum in Hereford.

Recent evidence indicates that the Romans were growing apples and pears during their stay in Britain, and one of the Vindolanda tablets shows that the largely Asturian (Spain) derived guardsmen near Hadrian's Wall, men with an apple and cider culture predating their own conquest by Rome, were seeking the best apples that could be found locally. The Normans were most certainly a vector for the arrival of continental apples to England—the word "cider" derives etymologically from the 12th-century French word "cidre"—but older accounts tell a different story. Saxon chronicles, before their conquest of the Britons, mention cider-like drinks and also mention the production of a drink called *æppelwīn*, literally meaning a wine or alcohol made from apples. There is also evidence from the mid-late Anglo-Saxon period of the growth of orchards before, during and after Christianisation of this group and their ceremonial use, most famously the custom of Wassail at Yuletide and it is known that monks grew apples in their gardens. Professor Christine Fell, posits that a drink served was an apple based alcohol using honey as a sweetener and extra fermentation agent and served in small cups that are often found in Saxon burials. Beer scholar, Martyn Comell, notes that with the rise of the word cider in the 12th century, the use of *beór* as a word disappears entirely from use as



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well. No form of the word was ever in use again before the 1500s, where beer was renamed following its import from German, *bier*, and thereafter the word began to describe a grain based alcohol of barley or wheat, sometimes brewed with hops and malt.

Further final evidence from an archaeological dig in Gloucester in 2002 suggests that crab apples in addition to their traditional use as a foodstuff were also being pressed into an alcohol sweetened with honey. With the invasion of 1066 the natural sugar in the Norman apples slowly displaced the need for honey as a sweetening agent and so began the love affair between the English and their apples and cider. Increased planting of apple trees began in earnest as soon as the feudal system introduced by William of Normandy could be secured, and continued down over what is becoming close to a thousand years. One of the earliest mentions of a named apple cultivar in English comes from the Plantagenet era near the end of the 12th century, "Costard". This apple was an all purpose apple that was occasionally used in cider. With the introduction of hops in the early reign of Henry VIII, the production of cider declined a bit but through the efforts of His Majesty's fruiterer new plantings of French varieties began in what is now Kent, setting the stage for more cross pollination with varieties already present and the expansion over the reign of Henry's children and great nephew into Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

Not all of the apples in the UK have ever been grown solely for dessert purposes, and indeed in British cookery the distinction between cider apples, cooking apples, and dessert apples has remained intact since before the Tudors and spread wherever the British colonized, with some blurring of lines in North America due to necessity and scarcity.

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### Promotion: Cider makers

The National Association of Cider Makers (NACM) promotes the cider and perry industry. It represents both larger producers and many hundreds of smaller scale cider makers.

In the present day, the United Kingdom drinks the most cider in the world. It is very common to find on tap in pubs and at the local off-license as well as available from smaller labels. English cider is mostly associated with the West Country, the West Midlands, and portions of the Home Counties and East Anglia, more specifically places like Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Kent, Suffolk and Norfolk and, more recently, Buckinghamshire and Cheshire. Cider is available in sweet, medium and dry varieties. Recent years have seen a significant increase in cider sales. The National Association of Cider Makers (NACM) estimates a minimum of 480 active cider makers in England. As of 2008, English cider production comprises 61.9% of cider produced in the EU, and a 7.9% share of UK alcohol servings. There has equally been a marked increase in demand for cider amongst the young: Since 2001, UK supermarket Tesco has increased its cider range by 60%, tripling the its premium cider category to keep up with demand.

There are two broad main traditions in cider production in England - the West Country tradition and the eastern Kent and East Anglia tradition. The former are made using a much higher percentage of true cider apples and so are richer in tannins and sharper in flavour. Kent and East Anglia ciders tend to use a higher percentage of, or are exclusively made from, culinary and dessert fruit; Kentish ciders such as Biddenden's, Rough Old Wife and Theobolds are typical of this style. They tend to be clearer, more vinous and lighter in body and flavour.

At one end of the scale are the traditional, small farm-produced varieties. These are non-carbonated and usually cloudy orange in appearance. Britain's West Country contains many of these farms which have an abundance of ancient varieties of specialist cider-apples. Production is often on a small scale, the product being sold only at the site of manufacture or in local pubs and shops. At the other end of the scale are the factories mass-producing brands such as Strongbow and Blackthorn.

Mass-produced cider, such as that produced by Bulmers, is likely to be pasteurised and force-carbonated. The colour is likely to be golden yellow with a clear appearance from the filtration. *White ciders* are almost colourless in appearance.



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### Recipe: Cider and apple cake

**Preparation time:** less than 30 mins

**Cooking time:** 30 mins to 1 hour

**Serves:** Serves 6-8

By Susie Dunkerton: From Country Show Cook Off

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## Ingredients

### For the cider syrup

**Method:** Soak the sultanas in 50ml/2fl oz of the cider until plump (about an hour, or you can do it over-

50g/1½oz sultanas

125g/4½oz softened butter

2 free-range eggs, beaten

50g/1½oz brown spelt flour

1 tsp ground coriander

1 crisp dessert apple, peel on, cut into cubes

150ml/5fl oz medium dry cider

125g/4½oz light soft brown sugar

175g/6oz white self-raising flour

½ tsp baking powder

pinch salt

night).

100ml/3½fl oz of medium dry cider

75g/2½oz granulated sugar

Preheat the oven at 180C/350F/Gas 4

Lightly grease an 18cm/7in diameter baking tin and dust it with flour.

In a bowl or food processor mix the butter and sugar. Next, add the beaten eggs, flours, baking powder, coriander and salt. Mix well.

Add the apple, the sultanas and the cider they soaked in, plus the remaining amount of cider to the cake mix, and stir to combine but do not beat.

Pour mixture into the cake tin and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes till golden-brown and firm to touch. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

For the cider syrup, in a saucepan bring the cider and granulated sugar to the boil, and when all the sugar has dissolved leave the syrup to cool.

Remove the cake from the tin and place on serving dish. Using a skewer prick the cake all over evenly.

Slowly pour the cider syrup over the cake, then serve.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/cider\\_and\\_apple\\_cake\\_80542](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/cider_and_apple_cake_80542)



## TRIVIA: City picks first female hornblower for ancient tradition

The Times, September 2017

Thousands of people from all over the world applied for the position of hornblower, despite some sniggers. Now after deliberating for a couple of months councillors in North Yorkshire have made their choice to maintain a tradition that dates back more than a thousand years.

Ripon city council chose two recruits, one of whom is their first ever female hornblower. Allison Clark and Richard Midgley will join Wayne Cobbett and Jim Vauvert in the role.

Since 886 a horn has been sounded four times in Ripon market place every night at 9pm to "sound the watch" The tradition is said to have begun when Alfred the Great visited the city and presented it with a horn as a symbol of it being granted a royal charter. The hornblower is also required to tell anyone watching the history of the ceremony. Paula Benson, clerk to the city council, said that the team had been overwhelmed by the global interest in the role.

## OUR PRECIOUS UNION! Theresa May June 2017 (Sucking England dry)

Join at [www.thecep.org.uk](http://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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