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Campaign for an English Parliament

Think of England Number 123: July 2022



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Number 123 July 2022

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Campaign for an English Parliament Aims, Principles and Policies.

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial: Lord Stevens, the former NHS England chief executive, criticised the delays in deciding funding for the English NHS during a House of Lords debate on new procurement legislation and complains about a lack of



political direction. Not surprising is it when these politicians have no interest or direct remit to consider England.

Notice how often the Times, once thought of as the pinnacle of responsible reporting, conflates England with Britain as if it did not know that the UK government was solely responsible for matters in England that are devolved to the rest of the UK.

Andrew Ellson conflates British and English when talking about wine from Sussex. He should know better as it is axiomatic in the wine trade that British wine is made from imported grapes but English wine is made from grapes grown in England.

The Times' education Commission also seems unable to understand that the UK government only has a remit in England so calling for it to make changes in 'Britain' is monumentally stupid. Britain again in the Times when actually talking about mayors as they are in England. And how many British graduates from regions that are not English will be owing 6 figures sums to the student loans scheme?

Christopher Chope is assiduous in getting a Barnett reform bill into every session of parliament. Sadly it has little hope of getting anywhere.

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England and the rest of the UK:

Scottish local elections 2022: SNP 'could work with Republicans to challenge UK government'

Kieran Andrews, Scottish Political Editor: Friday The Times

The SNP wants to work with Sinn Fein, Scotland's deputy first minister said, as the Republican party was poised to be the largest in Northern Ireland. John Swinney said the approach of Sinn Fein meant there would be much more common ground for agreement with the favourites to become the senior partner in the Stormont power-sharing agreement.

Swinney told Sky News: "I think it would mean we would have political leadership in Northern Ireland which was prepared to challenge the United Kingdom government on many aspects of its policy approach. So there's an opportunity for us to work together to pressurise the UK government."



English life:

Sparkling day for the vineyards of Sussex

Andrew Ellson Thursday June 16 2022, 12.01am, The Times

This year sparkling wine producers from Sussex won nine gold medals at the International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Everyone can raise a glass to Sussex after wine from the region was awarded protected status yesterday. The official recognition means that wines labelled with "Sussex" must be grown in either East or West Sussex and pass tests by an independent tasting panel. In the case of sparkling wine, Sussex produce must be aged in the bottle for at least 15 months and be assessed for clarity, aroma, taste and the characteristics of its bubbles.

The protections bring Sussex into line with other well-known winemaking regions of the world including Champagne, Burgundy, Rioja and Tuscany. While comparisons between Sussex and Champagne might raise eyebrows on the other side of the Channel, the rolling hills of the South Downs have many similarities to northeast France.

The government can take legal action against wine producers from outside the county that try to pass off their wine as from Sussex or against wine producers in the county that do not meet the strict criteria. The decision by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is likely to boost sales of English wine, with more than a quarter of all production coming from Sussex. Previous research by Defra has found that protected status helps grow sales and increase tourism to the designated region.

The English wine industry has undergone considerable growth in recent years, with the total planted vineyard area in the UK quadrupling since 2000 to stand at more than 8,750 acres (3,500 hectares).

Sales of English wines were up by nearly a third last year to seven million bottles.

Matters for an English Parliament:

NHS accused of favouring men changing gender over women with medical needs for breast surgery

Daily Telegraph: Hayley Dixon, Special Correspondent

A report for the NHS in England noted that it is "striking" that it has "facilitated greater access to gender reassignment surgery for gender dysphoria" whilst women with medical needs are increasingly struggling to access the same procedures.

NHS has lost 25,000 beds over past decade, says damning report

Eleanor Hayward, Health Correspondent, The Times

Patients' lives are at risk in hospitals that are "full to bursting".

A damning report found that Britain has fewer hospital beds than all European Union nations apart from Sweden. Last month a record 24,000 patients in England were stuck on trolleys in A&Es for more than 12 hours before being admitted.

The NHS has pursued a policy of shutting hospital beds as medical advances meant fewer patients needed

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an overnight stay.

Elective surgery such as hip replacements is being cancelled because of a lack of beds, making it impossible to reduce a record waiting list of 6.4 million.

Last month the government introduced a health and social care levy to help clear the Covid backlog, but NHS leaders say that the money will not be sufficient unless there is a workforce plan. The report said the worsening staff crisis in social care meant a “substantial proportion” of hospital beds were occupied by patients who are medically fine but had no care package in the community.



NHS logo in England

Warring ministers hold up plans to build 40 hospitals

Shaun Lintern, Health Editor Sunday June 05 2022, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

NHS leaders are concerned that some works will never get off the ground because of wrangling between what one source described as the “toxic triangle” of No 10, the Treasury and the Department of Health. To date only six projects have started construction, and just one — a £35 million cancer centre in Cumbria — has been completed.

Ten smaller schemes are due to start before September 2024, but eight “pathfinder” schemes that should be completed no later than 2028 have yet to be given a start date. These eight schemes are big, complicated projects that will be used as test cases for subsequent builds.

A group of hospitals waiting for permission to rebuild centres in Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Hertfordshire, Essex and London have been told not to expect news until later this year, after being previously told a decision would come in the spring.

A source said that the Treasury had a “clipping the wings” attitude to the health department.

Since 2010 there has been a sustained lack of investment in capital spending in the NHS. The cost of the maintenance backlog for more than 200 hospital trusts reached £9.2 billion in 2021; £1.5 billion of it was classed as being high risk to patients.

The slow progress at clearing the backlog could have consequences for budgets, with the business department warning that the price of construction materials had increased by 24 per cent in a year.

Lord Stevens, the former NHS England chief executive, criticised the delays during a House of Lords debate on new procurement legislation.

Stevens said the root causes of delays in big infrastructure projects were a lack of long-term funding, slow approvals and a lack of political direction. “We are seeing that right now in connection with the proposed building of 40 new hospitals,” he told peers.

One of the hospitals waiting for news is the Queen Elizabeth in King’s Lynn, Norfolk, which is having to use 1,500 steel and timber supports to hold up its roof in 56 separate areas. The hospital is due to reach the end of its life in 2030 and its controlling trust has asked for £862 million to rebuild it.

Improving management in the service is vital but insufficient

The Times Leading Articles Wednesday June 08 2022, 9.00pm, The Times

One problem is addressed in a report, published yesterday, by General Sir Gordon Messenger, a former vice-chief of the defence staff, and Dame Linda Pollard, who chairs an NHS trust. Their review concludes that there is “institutional inadequacy” in leadership in the NHS in England, and makes recommendations to improve management and training. It offers a modest palliative for a healthcare system that is under acute strain and that suffers from structural weaknesses.

The need for a review into NHS management practices is underscored by a series of scandals at NHS trusts. Among the most harrowing and recent was the finding, published in March, that failings in maternity care at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust led to the deaths of at least 201 babies and nine mothers over a period of years.

Ambulance trust covered up paramedics’ fatal errors like a ‘criminal gang’

David Collins and Hannah Al-Othman, The Sunday Times

Paul Calvert, a coroner’s officer whose job was to produce reports on deaths, tried to raise concerns about managers at the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) for three years before walking out last year on the verge of a breakdown. Calvert said “They were basically like a criminal gang. I had tried everything

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I could to warn the proper authorities about how the service was destroying and concealing evidence meant for the coroner. I spoke to my managers, to human resources, to external auditors. I even made disclosures to the Care Quality Commission and Northumbria police. Nothing was done about it.”

Since early 2019, Calvert was one of several coroner’s officers at the service who warned managers of a significant cover-up of evidence. Reports and witness statements from ambulance staff were not being disclosed to the coroner “on a daily basis”, according to Calvert, amounting to key pieces of evidence relating to deaths being hidden from the public. In one case he saw how a consultant paramedic erased vital information about a death by hanging. The NEAS investigation report was altered to remove the fact that her heart was beating when the first paramedic at the scene decided not to perform CPR.

NHS managers within the service set up a group in 2019 called Seacare that was supposed to make more efficient and timely the process of disclosing documents to the coroner via the service’s team of coroner’s officers. But Calvert claims that Seacare was simply used to sift out “inconvenient facts” about blunders before they got into the public domain. Calvert claims he saw paramedics and others bullied into changing witness statements to protect the NEAS’s reputation and prevent families from complaining.

The same year, an external auditor looked at six out of 30 cases supplied by coroner’s officers at the service. The report confirmed Calvert’s claims: documents were altered, suppressed and concealed from the families of patients who had died during 999 call-outs. Service managers had altered files to hide staff mistakes from coroners and grieving families. In one case, a 62-year-old man died after his oxygen machine cut out. NHS leaders withheld evidence that would have explained that a 34-minute delay was caused by an ambulance crew being unable to operate the ambulance bay’s gates. A second crew further away stopped off for petrol on the way to his house, despite having enough fuel to make the journey. By the time they arrived, he had suffocated.

Calvert complained he was being bullied by managers who were telling him to keep quiet. The service’s chief executive, Helen Ray wrote to him in May 2020: “She thanked him for his “unwavering desire” to help the service fulfil its legal duties, and laid out changes she had made as a result of his complaints.

But Calvert said nothing had changed at the service up to the point he walked out of headquarters. Despite their denials of a large-scale cover-up of mistakes, this year, he and a colleague were offered non-disclosure agreements. One of the clauses meant destroying all the evidence he had collected. Calvert refused to sign because of the “gagging” clause that would have prevented further disclosures to police and the Care Quality Commission.

Fatal ambulance delays show NHS is ‘shattered’

Shaun Lintern, Health Editor: June 12 2022, The Sunday Times

Dean Stevenson arrived at the Queen’s Medical Centre in Nottingham at 8pm last Saturday but was not triaged until after midnight. Scott Stevenson had called 999 after his father, Dean, 61, started complaining of chest pains radiating into his neck over the jubilee weekend. The family were told by call handlers it would take three to four hours for an ambulance to reach them. Because Dean, who

has a history of poor circulation and health problems, was classed as a suspected heart attack patient, he should have been seen by paramedics within 18 minutes. When he was eventually seen by doctors, Dean was diagnosed with a severe chest infection and has been recovering at home with antibiotics.

Across England, the average response times for such patients in April was more than 50 minutes — and one in ten waited almost two hours. The delays have been linked to record numbers of A&E patients being admitted to hospital, and record delays in their being discharged due to a collapse in homecare services. This then causes blockages, meaning patients face long waits in A&E.

The latest data for England’s ten ambulance trusts, compiled by the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, reveals that there were more than 41,000 handover delays of longer than an hour in April. They should be completed within 15 minutes. This resulted in 3,787 cases of severe harm where patients suffered a permanent disability, a lost limb or death, and 9,688 cases of moderate harm.

In the West Midlands last week, one patient waited in an ambulance for 25 hours.

Adam Aston, a paramedic and Labour councillor in Dudley, said: “The NHS is not only broken, it’s shattered in pieces on the floor.”



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The Times view on Britain's education system: Must Do Better

The Times Leading Articles June 14 2022, The Times
Too much focus is given to academic excellence and entrance to elite universities including Oxbridge, to the exclusion of vocational training. Meanwhile the quality of early years provision, which is crucial to future attainment, remains poor. No wonder that Britain is nowhere near the top of international league tables and employers complain that school leavers lack the necessary skills for work.



The core of the commission's blueprint, as set out in its 12-point plan, is for a radical overhaul of the secondary school curriculum based on the establishment of a British baccalaureate. This would offer broader academic and vocational qualifications at 18, with parity of funding per pupil in both routes. This reflects the fact that all children are required to be in some form of education or training until they are 18. Some will worry that a baccalaureate would lead to a dumbing down of academic standards. But there is no reason why a broader curriculum should mean a less rigorous one. The goal must be to provide students with high-quality qualifications in a wider range of subjects and disciplines, as is the case in other advanced economies.

3,000% surge in graduates who owe six-figure student loan debt

Emma Yeomans Tuesday June 28 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The number of graduates owing more than £100,000 in student loans has gone up by more than 3,000 per cent in a single year. 6,531 British graduates now have six-figure balances.

British graduates have the most debt in the English-speaking world, the Sutton Trust found in 2016.

This is likely to be because of high interest rates and flat wages over the past year, which have left graduates accruing interest on their debt without paying a substantial amount back.

Experts from the Institute for Fiscal Studies have calculated that 87 per cent of students will fail to clear their loan balances within 30 years. The interest rates mean many of these people will repay more than they borrowed. For example, a graduate with a salary of £50,000 who borrowed the maximum amount for living costs and fees, is likely to repay £163,630 — more than £100,000 more than they borrowed. Yet this would still not clear the loan.

'There's a critical risk the southwest will face neglect'

Peter Evans Wednesday June 01 2022, 10.00am, The Times

Across the southwest there are many examples of thriving, fast-growing businesses in industries as diverse as marine technology, tourism and space exploration. Yet local business leaders often feel they succeed against the odds in a region where social mobility statistics are among the most depressing in the country and support from the government under its levelling-up agenda is seen to be patchy at best.

While parts of the north and the Midlands are often front and centre in government regeneration programmes, there is a feeling in the southwest that the most deprived areas are often overlooked, despite going through a similar experience. The loss or decline of industries such as tobacco production in Bristol, tin mining in Cornwall and shipbuilding in Plymouth has caused generations of economic hardship.

"There's a critical risk the southwest will face neglect," said Geoffrey Cox, the Conservative MP for Torridge and West Devon. "We have always had difficulty attracting substantial investment because the population is low and communications are poor."

Of the 123 local authorities placed in the highest priority of the flagship £4.5 billion Levelling Up Fund — which the government describes as "representing places deemed in most need of investment" — only four are in the southwest. This is despite the region being home to some of the poorest parts of Britain. Social mobility is an especially pressing problem for the southwest. A new report by the University of Exeter found that the combined region of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset had the worst educational outcomes for disadvantaged young people in the country, the lowest rate of disadvantaged students attending university, and only 40 per cent of its disadvantaged pupils attain a pass grade in GCSE English and maths. Karl Tucker, chair of organic food producer Yeo Valley Farms and chair of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership said "We've got third, fourth, possibly fifth-generation parents who are un-

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employed. This is a social problem first — but also a business problem, because companies struggle to recruit from local schools and higher education establishments.

“We’re short of skilled labour and we’ve got big opportunities here with industries such as offshore wind,” said Tucker. “Unless we do something now, we’re going to have to import those skills from somewhere else, which would be a travesty for the young people of the region.”

Metro mayors need more freedom to tax and spend

Adam Hawksbee, deputy director of the think tank Onward: Monday June 20 2022, The Times

In most countries mayors are serious civic leaders. They raise taxes, set budgets, build infrastructure and deliver local services. Yet in Britain most mayors are a ceremonial adornment to underpowered local government. Since 2017 new mayors have sprung up outside the capital and have started to make progress on issues such as skills and transport. But Whitehall is struggling to let go and continued micromanagement means that metro mayors don’t have the powers to match their profile.

A byzantine system of funding pots and bidding processes leads to lobbying in London instead of delivering for voters. Nowhere is this more true than in the freedom to tax and spend. Only about a quarter of our taxes are spent by local leaders in the UK, compared with half in the US and three quarters in Canada. When it comes to tackling the cost of living crisis, low economic growth and reaching net zero the country has one hand tied behind its back.

Mayors can deliver more effectively, using local insight and nimbler teams to get things done. They can innovate. Proper tax-raising powers are crucial because they provide the resources to deliver. But also because they make mayors beholden to taxpayers instead of Whitehall. This is where a single directly elected figure is key to accountability: eight in ten voters in Manchester and London can name their mayor, only one in ten can name their council leader.

In Onward’s new report *Give Back Control* we set out a plan to empower mayors and scrutinise them more effectively. Greater control over business rates and council tax are important first steps, along with a process to introduce new local levies. But ultimately we need to think bigger, and England’s mayors should retain a penny in the pound of income tax, representing an annual revenue stream of £6 billion.

Watchdog investigates South West Water over sewage spills

Martin Strydom, Wednesday June 29 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The water industry regulator has opened an enforcement case against South West Water as part of an investigation into sewage treatment works and spills into rivers and the sea.

The company joins Anglian Water, Northumbrian Water, Thames Water, Wessex Water and Yorkshire Water on Ofwat’s list of open enforcement cases.

Last week Anglian Water said it would pay £92 million in dividends to its private shareholders despite raising customer bills and being fined for pollution failures. The owners of Anglian, one of Britain’s largest privatised water and sewerage utilities, include the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Canada Pension Plan Investments.

Governing England:

Peers who turn up to parliament fewer than 10 times a year

Dominic Hauschild, June 06 2022, The Times

More than a hundred members of the House of Lords attended parliament fewer than ten times in the most recent parliamentary session, figures obtained by Times Radio show.

Thirteen peers attended the chamber only once, and one did not attend the chamber a single time over the course of the past session. In 104 cases a peer attended on fewer than ten times between May last year and this March. Since the introduction of the Lords Reform Act in 2014, members who do not attend the chamber at least once during a parliamentary session are excluded from further participation. Eight peers have been excluded on this basis so far. The act also gives peers the opportunity to retire or resign their peerage; 152 peers have done this.

Concerns have been raised about the efficiency of the House of Lords, given major variations in the level



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of engagement by different peers. Even those who rarely attend debates enjoy taxpayer-subsidised food and drink and other benefits of office. Last month, Times Radio also found that three in five members of the House of Lords were virtually uncontactable by members of the public, refusing to list any contact information on their official profiles on the parliament website.

UK Parliament: Business: Committees

Transport Committee

27 June 2022: **Minister questioned on Government's National Bus Strategy**

The Government's National Bus Strategy for improved bus services in England outside London puts a premium on greater cooperation between bus operators and local councils to use new and existing funding to improve services for passengers.

As the Transport Committee moves to complete its evidence-taking on the Department's progress on the Strategy, MPs will put questions to the Transport minister with responsibility for buses, Baroness Vere, and the Department for Transport's co-Director for Local Transport, Stephen Fidler.

The National Bus Strategy, published in March 2021, included plans for simpler, cheaper fares; more turn-up-and-go services; improvements such as better information, more bus priority lanes and greener and more accessible services, as well as new forms of provision.



Health and Social Care Committee

27 June 2022: **MPs to examine impact of NHS backlog on general practice**

How general practice interacts with the wider health and care system will be examined in the fourth session of the inquiry into the future of general practice. Evidence from GPs has pointed to increased patient demand as a result of the NHS backlog, with deteriorating health conditions requiring more complex pain management or greater mental health support. Issues arising from how general practice works with A&E, hospitals and social care will be explored.

The recommendations of an NHS commissioned report which called for the creation of integrated neighbourhood teams and single integrated urgent care pathways are also likely to be examined.

MPs will also hear the first-hand experience of working in social care with evidence from a care worker to the inquiry on Workforce: recruitment, training and retention.

Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee

24 June 2022: **Lords Committee raises safety concerns over proposed M56 (Junctions 6 to 7) Smart motorway**

The House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee's 5th Report of Session 2022-23 has expressed concern over the changes to smart motorways proposed by the **M56 Motorway (Junctions 6 to 7) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2022 (SI 2022/607)**.

These Regulations enable the operation of variable mandatory speed limits between junctions 6 and 7, as part of the M56 junctions 6 to 8 "all lane running scheme" (ALR scheme) near Manchester Airport. As part of this road scheme, due to be opened to traffic in September 2022, the existing hard shoulder is being permanently converted to a running lane and Emergency Areas provided instead.

The Committee has highlighted their concerns because of the Department for Transport's (DfT) inadequate explanation of the legislation. DfT made no mention of the extensive concerns raised by the House of Commons Transport Committee on the general safety of smart motorways despite the Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP agreeing to all the Transport Committee's safety recommendations in January 2022, and despite him also committing to pause the rollout of future ALR smart motorway schemes until a full five years' worth of safety data was available. In light of this the Lords' Committee find the Explanatory Memorandum relating to the proposed Regulations particularly inexplicable.

DfT's subsequent explanation that these Regulations fall outside of the Government's commitment as the changes were already 50% complete in January 2022 did little to allay the Committee's concerns.

In addition, the Committee discovered that this M56 scheme will open with four designated Emergency Areas with an average spacing of 2.5 km, when the recommended separation is a maximum of 1.5km decreasing to one every 1 km where possible.

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UK Parliament: Business: Legislation: Parliamentary Bills

Next stage: Committee stage

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 30 June 2022 at 22:44

A Bill to make provision for the setting of levelling-up missions and reporting on progress in delivering them; about local democracy; about town and country planning; about Community Infrastructure Levy; about the imposition of Infrastructure Levy; about environmental outcome reports for certain consents and plans; about regeneration; about the compulsory purchase of land; about information and records relating to land, the environment or heritage; for the provision for pavement licences to be permanent; about governance of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; about vagrancy and begging; and for connected purposes.

Social Housing (Regulation) Bill [HL]: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 30 June 2022 at 20:49

A Bill to make provision about the regulation of social housing; about the terms of approved schemes for the investigation of housing complaints; and for connected purposes.

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2021-22, 2022-23: Last updated: 29 June 2022

A Bill to make provision in relation to freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education institutions and in students' unions; and for connected purposes.

Next stage: Report stage

Schools Bill [HL]: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 30 June 2022 at 18:28

A Bill To Make provision for the regulation of Academies; about school and local education funding; about the attendance of children at school; about the regulation of independent educational institutions; about teacher misconduct; and for connected purposes

Next stage: 2nd Reading

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill)

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2022-23: Last updated: 24 June 2022 at 11:21

A Bill to require the Chancellor of the Exchequer to report to Parliament on proposals to replace the Barnett Formula used to calculate adjustments to public expenditure allocated to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with a statutory scheme for the allocation of resources based on an assessment of relative needs; and for connected purposes.

UK Statutory Instruments (Regulations to UK Government laws affecting only England)

The Gender Recognition (Disclosure of Information) (England) Order 2022 No. 742

The Local Government (Exclusion of Non-commercial Considerations) (England) Order 2022 No. 741

The Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022 No. 720

The Building Safety (Leaseholder Protections) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 711

The Direct Payments to Farmers (Advance Payments and Activation of Payment Entitlements) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 706

The Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 11) (England) Order 2022 No. 649 (C. 35)

The National Health Service (Joint Working and Delegation Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 642

The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) and Persons Subject to Immigration Control (Housing Authority Accommodation and Homelessness) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2022 No. 626

The Building etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 603

The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) and Persons Subject to Immigration Control (Housing Authority Accommodation and Homelessness) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 No. 601



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The Local Authority and Greater London Authority Elections (Nomination of Candidates) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2022 No. 600

The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 599



c. 1680 *Portrait of a Mathematician* by Mary Beale, conjectured to be of Hooke

England's hero: Robert Hooke

Robert Hooke FRS (18 July 1635 – 3 March 1703) was an English polymath active as a scientist and architect, who, using a microscope, was the first to visualize a micro-organism. An impoverished scientific inquirer in young adulthood, he found wealth and esteem by performing over half of the architectural surveys after London's great fire of 1666. Hooke was also a member of the Royal Society and after 1662 was its curator of experiments. Hooke was also Professor of Geometry at Gresham College.

As an assistant to physical scientist Robert Boyle, Hooke built the vacuum pumps used in Boyle's experiments on gas law, and himself conducted experiments. In 1673, Hooke built the earliest Gregorian telescope, and then he observed the rotations of the planets Mars and Jupiter. Investigating in optics, specifically light refraction, he inferred a wave theory of light. And his is the first recorded hypothesis of heat expanding matter, air's composition by small particles at larger distances, and heat as energy.

In physics, he approximated experimental confirmation that gravity heeds an inverse square law, and first hypothesised such a relation in planetary motion, too, a principle furthered and formalised by Isaac Newton in Newton's law of universal gravitation. In geology and paleontology, Hooke originated the theory of a terraqueous globe, disputed the literally Biblical view of the Earth's age, hypothesised the extinction of species, and argued that fossils atop hills and mountains had become elevated by geological processes. Thus observing microscopic fossils, Hooke presaged the theory of biological evolution. Hooke's pioneering work in land surveying and in mapmaking aided development of the first modern plan-form map, although his grid-system plan for London was rejected in favour of rebuilding along existing routes. Even so, Hooke was key in devising for London a set of planning controls that remain influential. In recent times, he has been called "England's Leonardo".

In physics, Hooke's law states that the force (F) needed to extend or compress a spring by some distance (x) scales linearly with respect to that distance—that is, $F_s = kx$, where k is a constant factor characteristic of the spring (i.e., its stiffness), and x is small compared to the total possible deformation of the spring. Hooke first stated the law in 1676 as a Latin anagram. He published the solution of his anagram in 1678 "as the extension, so the force" or "the extension is proportional to the force".

England's history: The Battle of Northampton

Paul Simons The Times

During the Wars of the Roses 560 years ago, the Lancastrian army of Henry VI commanded by the Duke of Buckingham looked invincible in a fortified camp outside Northampton. The rear of their encampment was protected by the River Nene, swollen with recent heavy rains, to the front they had dug a large ditch filled with water and sharp wooden stakes, and they had artillery. When the Yorkist army led by the Earl of Warwick arrived to do battle on July 10, 1460, it faced a daunting prospect, but Warwick was determined to press ahead with an attack.

The outlook seemed even bleaker for Warwick when a heavy squall broke out as his troops advanced, driving rain and gusting winds across the battlefield. But though the foul conditions slowed the advancing Yorkist troops, they also ruined the Lancastrians' gunpowder and their cannon failed to fire. Warwick focused his attack on one wing of the enemy camp where a Lancastrian commander, Lord Grey of Ruthin, ordered his troops to lay down their arms, allowing the Yorkists to surge through the camp. This act of



John Talbot, the 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury, killed at the Battle of Northampton

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treachery appears to have been pre-arranged and it turned the battle. Warwick's men overran the camp and Buckingham's troops now found themselves trapped behind their tight lines of defence with little room to manoeuvre. The Lancastrians were routed in only 30 minutes and many fleeing soldiers drowned as they tried to swim across the Nene.

Seeing this disaster unfold, Henry VI took shelter in his tent while Buckingham and his other commanders fought to the death to give him a chance to escape, but their sacrifice was in vain. Yorkist troops took the king prisoner. The Lancastrians suffered about 300 killed and wounded while the Yorkist losses were minimal.

It was a stunning victory for the Duke of York, who was in Ireland at the time. He returned to London to assemble a parliament and pressed his claim to the throne, ushering in an even deadlier phase of the war

English culture: Mild Ale returns

Why traditional English mild ale is making a comeback

It may have fallen from grace, replaced first by European-style lagers, then high-strength American IPAs, but English mild ale is back with a bang. Modern brewers like Bristol's Left Handed Giant are spearheading its revival, while drinking establishments including the Waterloo Tap in London are increasingly selling it. Mild emerged in the 19th century, when it initially meant a fresh, relatively young beer, as opposed to the wood-aged porters then common. It later developed into a moderately hopped, low-alcohol, dark beer (there are also light and stronger versions) that most pub-goers drank, until it was usurped by bitter in the 1950s.

Even though the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) has indefatigably sung (and still sings) its praises with an annual Mild Month in May, which began in 1977, and it survived in places like the Black Country, mild became a rarely seen beast. On a recent visit to Left Handed Giant's brewpub alongside Bristol Harbour, a resolutely modern establishment with a phalanx of stainless steel brewing vessels behind the bar and a post-industrial interior, mild was back in the pumps.

These milds are as likely to come from old-school breweries such as McMullen's and Bathams as they are from hip new brewers like Attic in Birmingham or east London's Boxcar.

Even family-owned Theakston's in Yorkshire has dusted off its archives and brewed its Dark Mild in cask for the first time in seven years. The reason for this resurrection, according to joint managing director Simon Theakston, was that "the explosion of micro-brewing and increased interest in alternative beer styles has paradoxically rekindled interest in foundational, traditional ales such as mild."



English produce: Hops

Hops are the flowers (also called seed cones or strobiles) of the hop plant *Humulus lupulus*, a member of the Cannabaceae family of flowering plants. They are used primarily as a bittering, flavouring, and stability agent in beer, to which, in addition to bitterness, they impart floral, fruity, or citrus flavours and aromas. Hops are also used for various purposes in other beverages and herbal medicine. The hops plants have separate female and male plants, and only female plants are used for commercial production. The hop plant is a vigorous, climbing, herbaceous perennial, usually trained to grow up strings in a field called a hopfield, hop garden (in the South of England), or hop yard (in the West Country) when grown commercially. Many different varieties of hops are grown by farmers around the world, with different types used for particular styles of beer.



The first documented hop cultivation was in 736, in Germany, although Hildegard of Bingen, 300 years later, is often cited as the earliest documented source and the first mention of the use of hops in brewing in that country was 1079.

Before this period, brewers used a "gruit", composed of a wide variety of bitter herbs and flowers. Not until the 13th century did hops begin to start threatening the use of gruit for flavouring.

Hops are also used in brewing for their antibacterial effect over less desirable microorganisms and for

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purported benefits including balancing the sweetness of the malt with bitterness and a variety of flavours and aromas. Historically, traditional herb combinations for beers were believed to have been abandoned when beers made with hops were noticed to be less prone to spoilage.

In England, hopped beer was first imported from Holland around 1400, yet hops were condemned as late as 1519 as a "wicked and pernicious weed". In 1471, Norwich banned use of the plant in the brewing of ale. Hops used in England were imported from France, Holland and Germany and were subject to import duty; it was not until 1524 that hops were first grown in the southeast of England (Kent), when they were introduced as an agricultural crop by Dutch farmers. Consequently many words used in the hop industry derive from the Dutch language

In England there were many complaints over the quality of imported hops, the sacks of which were often contaminated by stalks, sand or straw to increase their weight. As a result, in 1603, King James I approved an Act of Parliament banning the practice.

Because a huge itinerant force of workers was needed to pick the crop by hand, production became concentrated near to the industrial areas of London and the West Midlands where the working-class families were glad to be able to spend their annual holidays in the countryside.

Twentieth century advances in production and mechanical harvesting have eliminated the need for large numbers of seasonal workers.

Formerly, hops were grown in almost every region of the UK but they are now confined largely to the West Midlands and South Eastern counties.



Recipe: Steak and Ale pie

Ingredients

900 g (2 lb) good beef stewing steak, at room temperature	vegetable oil
1 handful fresh thyme, marjoram and chopped parsley	1 bay leaf
150 ml (5.3 imp fl oz) beef stock	1 tbsp (15 ml) plain flour
1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce	450 g (1 lb) puff pastry
1 medium onion, peeled and diced	125 ml (4.4 imp fl oz) ale
1 tsp (5.0 ml) English mustard	salt and cracked black pepper

Method: Cut the beef into cubes about 2.5 cm (1 in) square.

Heat oil in a saucepan and fry the onion, without letting it colour.

Add beef, making sure the meat is at room temperature first, and cook until medium brown.

Stir in the flour and cook until dark brown (about 1 minute)

Add Worcestershire sauce, thyme, marjoram, mustard, bay leaf and seasoning.

Slowly add beef stock and ale, then bring to the boil.

Simmer gently until beef is almost tender, approximately 1 ½ hours.

Preheat oven to 200 °C (400 °F).

Remove meat from heat, skim off any fat, adjust seasoning and add fresh chopped parsley.

Place in pie dish or individual dishes. Cover pie dish (or dishes) with the pastry and trim edges.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until pastry is well-risen and golden brown.

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