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

Think of England

Number 81 : July 2018



**Championing England
& Challenging Prejudice**

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RECOMMENDED READING:

Old English Villages by Clay Perry, Ann Gore, Laurence Fleming published by Weidenfeld



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: Eddie and I

were honoured to be invited to this Speaker's lecture, by John Denham. It was one of a series of lectures given at Speaker's House. One of the reasons the CEP has never wanted to become a political party, against some criticism, was because we would not have been invited to the Speaker's lecture by a member of another political party. Secondly we knew that to get to our objective we would need to work through any political party that had a chance of forming a government. Although John Denham is no longer an MP he is greatly respected and has the ear of those in power.

Needless to say the English flag has been attacked when flown to support England at the football World Cup. Not only are Scottish and Welsh flags freely flown in their own countries but also in England. As England seems to be doing quite well in the Cup no doubt supporters will be accused of triumphalism if they dare to rejoice at any success England might have.

The CEP has no opinion about the pros and cons of Brexit but what is apparent is that having overwhelmingly voted for it they are never consulted about any negotiations, since there is no-one to represent them.

Yet again the votes of those living outside England have had a decisive effect on the outcome of deliberations concerning a third runway at Heathrow. And why not they have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Their citizens will never be adversely affected by it.



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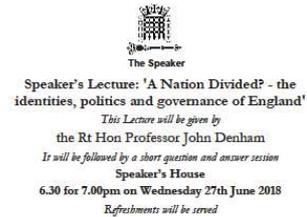
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Campaigning for England :

Eddie and your editor were invited to the Speaker's Lecture on the identity, politics and governance of England given by the Right Honourable Professor John Denham, formerly Labour MP for Southampton, Itchen. Together with guests known to us as having an interest in the subject there were also Yasmin Alibhai Brown and Peter Hain, now a Lord. The guests gathered in Portcullis House and were escorted through an underground passage to the Speaker's House in the Palace of Westminster. We passed enormous sculptures of the lion on one side and the unicorn on the other. Very impressive but a reminder of the 1707 union of parliaments!



Please bring this ticket to gain entry.
New year holders please enter via Portcullis House
and allow 20 minutes to clear security.

We were regaled with copious amounts of wine and nibbles before John Denham's lecture.

There was nothing in his lecture with which the CEP policy could disagree apart from John's assertion that dual mandating MPs was the way forward. The Speaker, John Bercow, was in attendance throughout and, at the end, said that, when asked how one should get legislation through Parliament against all odds, his answer was 'persist'. This chimes with our mantra of 'grim determination'. At the end of the lecture Mrs Brown asked a question, the content of which I now forget but reflected her particular interests, and then left. Hain, as shadow Welsh representative, asked how an English parliament would affect Wales. Eddie called for a manifesto for England and John Denham agreed that there should be one.

The lecture is too long to reproduce in this newsletter but you can access it here: <http://www.theoptimisticpatriot.co.uk/post/17533441133/a-nation-divided>



If anyone can get to the event below and report back we would be very grateful.

The TaxPayers' Alliance would like to invite you to a public panel discussion on **Unitary councils: the future of local government?**

While Sajid Javid was the Secretary of State for local government, he backed a single unitary council for Buckinghamshire. Other areas in the country have opted for a single-tier local government structure too, replacing the county/district divide with a single - or 'unitary' - body responsible for all aspects of local government in their region.

In 2009 Wiltshire Council became a unitary authority, with reported savings of £150 million. Proponents of the change argue that there are other benefits, such as greater transparency and simplicity in dealing with local government.

Can unitary councils enable taxpayers to be closer to the organisations deciding how their money is spent, making the process easier to scrutinise? Or is the current system more responsive to the needs of local taxpayers' needs?

When: Monday 9 July at 5.30pm for 6pm prompt start (finish 7.30pm)

Where: TaxPayers' Alliance, 55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL

RSVP: milly@taxpayersalliance.com or 020 7340 6021

Panellists:

Harry Fone - TaxPayers' Alliance: Grassroots Campaign Manager (Chair)

Prof Colin Copus - Professor of Local Politics, de Montford University

Andrew Kennedy - Freelance campaign consultant and 2019 local government candidate in Kent

Harry Phibbs - Freelance journalist and local government editor at ConservativeHome and former councillor

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE - Leader of Wiltshire Council

Refreshments will be available.



A letter to the Daily Telegraph from member Andy Smith

Subject: Brexit voices Date: Tuesday, 19 June, 2018,

Dear Sir,

SNP MPs demand to hear "Scotland's voice" in the Brexit negotiations and stage an attention-seeking Commons walkout to highlight their sense of grievance. Meanwhile, the Brexit process itself is still hamstrung by concerns about the Irish border, the commercial interests of multinational corporations, and a

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rearguard action by diehard Remainers in Westminster (many of them on EU pensions).

Surely the real question is: "Where is the ENGLISH voice in all this?" It was the people of England and Wales that voted decisively for Brexit, yet I am at a loss to see how the interests and aspirations of Leave-majority English or Welsh voters are being met in the Brexit negotiations.



Somehow, the focus has shifted and arguments over Brexit are now all about the interests of self-serving members of the House of Lords, global corporations, the SNP, the Republic of Ireland and other EU member states - indeed, everyone but England. Yet, in the Referendum on 23rd June 2016, was it not the English people who spoke out most clearly for Brexit? It is time to put England's interests first.

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### **ENGLAND flags were banned again yesterday for "causing offence" amid a growing row over politically-correct killjoys.**

The Sun 15/6/18: By NICK Parker

Councils, shop staff and cabbies were ordered to remove St George symbols as the World Cup kicked off. The Royal Mail had previously banned its 125,000 posties from displaying England flags. But they faced a backlash from patriotic supporters, councillors and PM Theresa May. Among the spoilsports enforcing a ban were a Tesco in Hyde, Gtr Manchester which barred staff from putting up England flags. Local councillor John Bell said: It's absolute nonsense. People want to show their support for England and should be allowed to do so'. Tory council hopeful Andrea Colbourne added 'It's infuriating'. One shop in Sheffield's giant Meadowhall mall stopped using carrier bags printed with England flags following customer complaints that they were offensive.

Bradford Council ordered its 8,500 staff to remove the St. George's Cross from council motors "if someone is offended. It later relented saying it would be "happy" for them to remain. Dozens of taxi drivers were warned they face a licensing committee rap for flying flags from cars in Cumbria.

One at City-Lynx Taxis in Barrow-in-Furness said flying flags is patriotic.

Vice Admiral Sir Neville Purvis, of the Royal Society of Saint George's City of London branch, said the Welsh flag gets put up in Wales and the Scottish flag gets put up in Scotland. England are playing so why can't People put up the St. George's flag.

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

#### **Current English Affairs:**

**Hunt promises new hospital** every year in 1:3.5.bn splurge

The Times, 28/3/18: Chris Smyth Health Editor

The NHS has been promised a new hospital every year in the biggest infrastructure expansion for a decade.

Jeremy Hunt, the health secretary; who is pushing the prime minister for a ten-year NHS funding plan, said he wanted to "expand capacity for the future" with a host of new buildings.

A £35 billion capital fund promised by Philip Hammond, the chancellor, in last year's budget would allow a major project equivalent to a new hospital each year for the next five years, he said.

Shrewsbury and Telford will receive £300 million this year to turn two hospitals into one "hot" emergency care hospital and one "cold" hospital for scheduled treatments and operations.

It will be one of 40 modernisation projects to share £760 million this year as part of reforms laid out by Simon Stevens, head of NHS. **England.** He wants beefed-up GP surgeries and better elderly care to join up fragmented services and take the pressure off hospitals, but change has been held up by a lack of infrastructure funds and the distraction of day-to-day chaos in the NHS.

The programme would be one of the largest capital programmes in NHS history, Mr Hunt said. "We are backing local NHS services with new buildings, beds and wards so that staff who have been working incredibly hard over winter can have confidence we are expanding capacity for the future. Further projects are also under consideration and we intend to announce one large-scale scheme the size of the Shrewsbury and Telford plan every year."

Mr Stevens said: "These significant investments will turbo charge much-needed improvements for patients and the public, including better A&E facilities, children and adult mental health services, diagnostics and

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general practice. While rightly acknowledging the NHS's past in its 70th year, it's critical to build for the future and to develop the new, more joined-up and interconnected services people will need."

At the weekend, Mr Hunt criticised "crazy" fluctuations in NHS funding, arguing that a ten-year funding plan would allow the service to modernise while cutting waste. He played down talk of a £4 billion "birthday present" for the NHS in July, but said that he wanted Theresa May to agree to an earmarked NHS tax to keep the health budget growing steadily over the next decade. This would give the public confidence that "the NHS is going to tackle some of the inefficiencies" he told ITV.

• Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge has cancelled all operations, including cancer and urgent cases, after declaring the highest level of alert. The NHS Trust said that it has no beds available and has diverted ambulances to other hospitals, according to a leaked internal newsletter. The document said that 316 people attended A&E on Monday and the four-hour wait target was breached 131 times:

(Note: Any capital spend in England attracts a Barnett bung from UK taxes for the devolved territories. Ed.)

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NHS hospitals plagued by blocked pipes, pests and leaks

Daily Mail 27/4/18: By Daniel Martin Policy Editor

PATIENTS are being put at risk in hospitals with leaking roofs, wards crawling with pests and blocked sewage pipes, figures suggest.

Freedom of Information requests reveal that between 2015 and 2017 there were 3,500 incidents in the NHS involving a leaking roof, more than 12000 calls to pest control services over rodents, ants and wasps and at least 678 separate incidents of faults in sewage pipes. Some of the Incidents had already impacted on patient care, shadow health minister Justin Madders said.

At Mid Cheshire Trust, a leaking roof in X-ray caused 'delay in possible cancer diagnosis'. Taunton and Somerset trust reported an incident of 'raw sewage in a clinical area with patients present'.

Labour's analysis shows some trusts are facing outstanding multi-million pound bills for repair works. Mr Madders accused the Government of taking funds from NHS maintenance budgets to keep everyday services running, adding: 'The Government urgently needs to take action to tackle these dangerous conditions.'



1820 Engraving of Guy's Hospital in London one of the first voluntary

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### How Americans grabbed a slice of our NHS

Mail 28/4/18: BY Kate Pickles

THE decision to close the Osier House surgery in Harlow has its roots more than 4,000 miles away in the US. The surgery is part of The Practice Group - one of the largest GP providers in the UK with around 50 surgeries and health centres responsible for more than 200,000 patients.

But despite dealing with more than a million NHS appointments a year, the Group's major stakeholder is a multi-billion pound health insurance company called the Centene Corporation - based in St Louis, Missouri.

Changes introduced by the Labour government in 2004, allowed companies to bid for short term contracts with NHS clinical commissioning groups. Centene took advantage of this to buy into The Practice Group, later increasing its stake from 49 to 75 per cent in 2016. It means the company, listed on the New York Stock exchange, now has the final say over a number of GP surgeries in England, and can close them if they are not profitable.

Its involvement has coincided with the closure of a number of surgeries by The Practice Group, often in areas of high deprivation where it is difficult to make a profit.

Two years ago, there was a similar public outcry when it terminated five contracts in Brighton leaving 11,500 patients looking for a new GP. It has also closed a surgery in Camden Road, London the Maybury surgery in Woking, the Brandon Street practice in Leicester and the Arboretum surgery in Nottingham. The latest, Osier House, will close on Monday after the company gave up its contract with the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, stating that it was not 'financially viable' for them to continue to run such a small service.

Richard Vautrey, of the British Medical Association's GP committee, said the closure of surgeries by private consortiums was a growing problem.

A spokesman for The Practice Group said 'The wellbeing of patients is central to every decision we make, which is why we have worked closely with the local NHS commissioning body, West Essex CCG and other local GP practices to ensure the handful of patients we have receive uninterrupted care provision.'

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(Note the UK government has total control only over the English Health Service. Ed.)

## ~~~~~ **Patients are at risk from lack of NHS cash, say doctors-**

Times 25/6/18: Kat Lay Health Correspondent

More than three quarters of doctors believe that patient safety is being put at risk by underfunding in the NHS, according to a survey.

The poll follows allegations that thousands of patients across the UK may have died because they were given opioids through syringe pumps that were allegedly prone to error.

A poll of almost 8,000 doctors at the British Medical Association (BMA) annual meeting in Brighton suggested that 74 per cent thought that financial targets were put above patient care. The poll also suggested that 78 per cent of doctors thought that under-funding significantly affected quality and safety in the NHS and 76 per cent that waiting times and services overall had worsened in the past year.

In a speech to be given today the head of the BMA says that there is a year-round crisis in which pressure on services is as great in summer as in winter. Chand Nagpaul, chairman of the BMA council says: 'We know the NHS has been systematically and scandalously starved of resources over the years. It lacks doctors, it lacks nurses, it lacks beds. It's not just the Channel that separates us from our European neighbours, but a vast funding gap equating to 35,000 hospital beds or 10,000 doctors. Do you remember when winter pressures only happened in the winter? We now have an all-year crisis ... All this is inevitably affecting patient safety, with bed occupancy in some trusts running up to 100 percent: well above recommended safe limits?'

The poll also suggested that 95 per cent of doctors were afraid of making an error and 55 per cent of being blamed for errors due to pressure.

The number of medical school places must double to 15,000 to offset rising patient demand, drop-out rates during training and the effect of part-time working, a report by the Royal College of Physicians says. It adds Hospital activity, both emergency and elective, has increased by 3.6 per cent per year over 12 years. If this continues, there will be an increase in demand of 47 per cent between now and 2030.

## ~~~~~ **SNP promised 16,000 new jobs in exchange for backing project**

Times 6/6/18: Francis Elliott Political Editor

The parliamentary battle for Heathrow's third runway was effectively over before it even began when the SNP government in Holyrood came out in support.

The Scottish government was explicit about the price it extracted after what was effectively a bidding war with Gatwick conducted over several years. The deal included the promise of a new "logistics hub" for the construction of the new runway and the pledge to make more landing slots available at Heathrow for flights from Scottish airports. Four hubs are to be built around the UK that will assemble parts for the expanded airport before transporting them to Heathrow.

Announcing its backing for the plan, the SNP's economy secretary, Keith Brown, said that the airport would lead to the creation of 16,000 new jobs in Scotland. "We have been clear from the start of this process that we wanted the best deal for Scotland and building a third runway at Heathrow provides the most significant benefits to the country's economy and connectivity."

Significantly it was only after the SNP gave its backing for Heathrow in October 2016 that Theresa May finally took the decision to agree to the third runway. At the time the SNP had 54 Westminster seats, more than enough to offset any Tory rebellion. Confident that she would not face a humiliating defeat, the prime minister went ahead with an attempt to get the proposal through parliament.

Although the SNP tally has reduced to 35 after last year's election, the basic parliamentary arithmetic remains unchanged. As an insurance, Heathrow also has the support of most of Mrs May's allies in the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which was won over in much the same way, as well as the support of scores of Labour MPs and the unions.

Just to make sure of the DUP backing, a team from Heathrow are visiting three sites in Northern Ireland this week that will also be bidding to become one of the logistics hubs for the runway's construction.

In fact, the airport has a long list of 65 potential sites for the hubs, carefully spread across the country, in a move that would appear designed to maximise support from regional groups of MPs. It is also promising to spread the "supply chain" opportunities to smaller companies in ten similarly carefully located "business summit location?"

In its press release shortlisting the 65 from an initial 121 last November, Heathrow said that the hubs



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

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would "create jobs in every corner of the UK". It added: "Once finalised, the final four selected locations will pre-assemble components of the expanded airport before transporting them in consolidated loads to Heathrow, playing a key role in supporting expansion's efficient delivery'

The airport is less clear about when the final decision to site the four hubs will be taken but it seems a fair bet that it will not be until the runway has cleared all its necessary parliamentary hurdles. With thousands of jobs to dangle and £16 billion to spend Heathrow has been ruthless in leveraging support of regions desperate for a share.

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### English politics:

#### **27 March 2018: NHS stuck in survival mode as focus remains on short-term fixes**



NHS logo for England

The Public Accounts Committee report finds that the Department for Health and Social Care must set out plans to secure a long-term funding settlement that reflects real need.

#### **NHS budgets unable to keep pace with demand**

Despite a rescue fund worth £1.8 billion in 2016–17, the financial position of the NHS remains in a perilous state. The NHS is still very much in survival mode, with budgets unable to keep pace with demand. The Department of Health and Social Care, NHS **England** and NHS Improvement are too focused on propping up the system and balancing the books in the short term and have not paid enough attention on transforming and improving patient services in the long term.

This short-term view was apparent over the winter when, despite early warning of a looming crisis, the Chancellor only announced additional funding in November. With trusts forecasting a deficit of over £900 million in 2017–18, the NHS still has a long way to go before it is financially sustainable.

#### **Department's lack of action disappointing**

We are disappointed that the Department's lack of action means we have to repeat some of the same messages as our previous reports on the dangers of short-term measures used to balance the NHS budget and the risks of raiding investment funds to meet day-to-day spending.

Despite our earlier warnings, the Department has not yet assessed the impact on patients or services of repeatedly raiding its capital budget to fund the short-term needs of the NHS.

Local health bodies are quickly setting up new integrated care systems, which offer the potential for more strategic and long-term planning and better joined-up services for patients. But we are concerned that the witnesses could not clearly explain how accountability within these systems will work in practice or how they will improve the care that patients receive.

The announcement to lift the 1% pay cap for NHS staff is welcome but we will be watching to see whether this will lead to better retention of staff. We also need to be clear that this is not robbing Peter to pay Paul.

#### **Chair's comments**

Comment from the Committee Chair, Meg Hillier MP

"The National Health Service continues to scrape by on emergency hand-outs and funds that were intended for essential investment.

We have said it before and we will say it again: rescue packages and budget transfers are no substitute for a coherent, properly funded strategy that enables NHS trusts to plan, focus on patient care and lay the groundwork for long-term financial sustainability.

Government's last-minute response to what were entirely predictable winter pressures is just the latest vivid demonstration of why fresh thinking is so desperately needed.

Our committee has repeatedly called for a long-term plan for the NHS and by July we expect the Department for Health and Social Care to explain in detail exactly how it is approaching this task.

Key to this will be securing a funding settlement from the Treasury that properly reflects current and anticipated demand for NHS services.

But there is work to do on the ground now. It is a basic point but new initiatives devised with the best of intentions are no use if they don't work in practice.

It remains unclear how local partnerships, set up to develop strategy and help to transform services, will be held to account for their performance. This must be addressed.

Government should also move more quickly to identify successes in its piloting of new care models and ensure best practice is shared for the benefit of patients across the country."

#### **Lessons must be learned from NHS England contract with Capita**

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**17 May 2018:** The Commons Public Accounts Committee Chair Meg Hillier MP has commented on today's National Audit Office report on NHS **England's** management of the primary care support services contract with Capita

The Committee Chair, Meg Hillier MP, comments: "Trying to slash costs by more than a third at the same time as implementing a raft of modernisation measures was over-ambitious, disruptive for thousands of doctors, dentists, opticians and pharmacists and potentially put patients at risk of serious harm.

Neither NHS **England** nor Capita properly understood the scale of the challenge before agreeing the contract and are still in dispute over future payments. Yet again this is poor contracting by Government with one of its major suppliers and it must learn lessons."

### **Supporting primary care services: NHS England's contract with Capita inquiry**

In August 2015, NHS **England** entered into a £330 million, seven-year contract with Capita for primary care support services. These included payments to GP practices, opticians and pharmacies, and supplying needles, syringes and stationery to primary care providers. It also included sending out invitation and recall letters to patients for cervical screening.

According to a recent report by the National Audit Office, problems with Capita's performance emerged within a year of the contract beginning, with a backlog of medical records building up, and late payments to providers such as GPs, opticians and dentists. 87 women were incorrectly informed they were no longer part of a cervical screening programme.

In September 2016, NHS **England** intervened to improve Capita's management of the contract. Since then, Capita reports that its performance has improved, with it meeting 41 of its 45 performance targets by February 2018. However, primary care practitioners in the same timeframe found that only 32 targets were being met.

The National Audit Office found that NHS **England's** performance measures for the contract did not cover all that Capita was required to deliver, whilst Capita underestimated the scale and nature of the task at hand.

The Committee will explore what Capita is doing to improve its performance, how NHS **England** can better manage this contract and similar contracts, and what is being done to ensure no patients are put at risk of harm as a result of problems with support services.

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23 March 2018: Airports National Policy Statement: more work needed before Parliamentary approval

Parliament should approve the Airports National Policy Statement (NPS), says the Transport Select Committee, but only after Government addresses the concerns set out in its Report.

Safeguards should be added before Parliamentary debate

Government now has the opportunity to make changes to the NPS, before it is laid before both Houses of Parliament for debate. In today's Report on the Airports National Policy Statement, the Committee warns that important safeguards should be strengthened or added to the NPS before this happens.

A decision by Parliament to approve the Airports NPS would allow the planning process to move onto detailed work around scheme design and in effect gives outline planning permission for the Government's preferred scheme, a Northwest runway at Heathrow Airport.

The Committee accepted there was a case for additional runway capacity, particularly hub capacity and that expansion at Heathrow could deliver the Government's strategic objectives for greater connectivity for passengers and freight.

Passenger interest, environmental, social and health impact

MPs recognised the efforts made by the Government and Heathrow Airport Ltd to mitigate the significant social and environmental impacts arising from expansion at Heathrow.

Additional safeguards are needed to ensure that the interests of passengers are protected, and the adverse environmental, social and health impacts on affected communities are addressed. These include:

Air quality, Surface access, Regional connectivity, Scheme costs and airport charges, Noise, Community impacts and compensation, Resource and waste management.

Sections of the draft NPS dealing with these matters should be revised before a final NPS is tabled for approval by both Houses of Parliament.

Extra policy measures required for effective delivery



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The Committee also identified associated policy measures that were required if expansion at Heathrow was to be delivered effectively. These include: policy on airspace change, wider Government policies on air quality, noise and surface access improvements, effective use of existing airport capacity

Chair's comment

The Chair of the Transport Committee, Lilian Greenwood MP, said: "The Committee's recommendations improve the NPS and reduce the chance of a successful legal challenge. The Northwest Runway scheme, as set out in the draft NPS, is the highest cost expansion option and one of the largest privately financed infrastructure projects anywhere in the world.

At present, the draft NPS does not guarantee that passengers will be protected from the cost risks associated with the scheme. The Secretary of State must set out how airport charges will be held down.

During our inquiry, we heard how communities might be affected. Thousands of people across London could be exposed to worse levels of noise, air quality and traffic congestion - there must be sufficient measures to protect or compensate them. *(Are their voices heard above those of the DUP and SNP? Ed.)*

The Government and Heathrow have made efforts to mitigate these significant impacts, but safeguards on air quality, surface access, connectivity, costs and charges and noise should be strengthened. As a matter of urgency, we also want to see how the Government plans to deliver the necessary airspace change. This must all be done before a final NPS is tabled for approval by both Houses of Parliament."



an 1834 painting by brother Branwell Brontë.

England's heroes/heroines: Emily Jane Brontë (30 July 1818 – 19 December 1848), was an English novelist and poet who is best known for her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*, now considered a classic of English literature. Emily was the third-eldest of the four surviving Brontë siblings, between the youngest Anne and her brother Branwell. She wrote under the pen name Ellis Bell.

She was born in the village of Thornton Market Street on the outskirts of Bradford, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England and was the younger sister of Charlotte Brontë and the fifth of six children. In 1820, shortly after the birth of Emily's younger sister Anne, the family moved eight miles away to Haworth, where her father was employed as perpetual curate.

After the death of their mother on 15 September 1821, when Emily was three years old, the older sisters Maria, Elizabeth and Charlotte were sent to the Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge, where they encountered abuse and privations later described by Charlotte in *Jane Eyre*. At the age of six Emily joined her sisters at school. When a typhoid epidemic swept the school, Maria and Elizabeth caught it. Maria, who may actually have had tuberculosis, was sent home, where she died. Emily was subsequently removed from the school, in June 1825, along with Charlotte and Elizabeth. Elizabeth died soon after their return home.

The three remaining sisters and their brother Patrick Branwell were thereafter educated at home by their father and aunt Elizabeth Branwell, their mother's sister. A shy girl, Emily was very close to her siblings and was known as a great animal lover. Despite the lack of formal education, Emily and her siblings had access to a wide range of published material; favourites included Sir Walter Scott, Byron, Shelley, and *Blackwood's Magazine*.

In their leisure time the children began to write fiction at home, inspired by a box of toy soldiers Branwell had received as a gift and created a number of fantasy worlds (including 'Angria') which featured in stories they wrote – all "very strange ones" according to Charlotte – and enacted about the imaginary adventures of their toy soldiers along with the Duke of Wellington and his sons, Charles and Arthur Wellesley. Little of Emily's work from this period survives, except for poems spoken by characters. When Emily was 13, she and Anne withdrew from participation in the Angria story and began a new one about Gondal, a fictional island whose myths and legends were to preoccupy the two sisters throughout their lives. With the exception of their Gondal poems and Anne's lists of Gondal's characters and place-names, the writings on Gondal were not preserved. Some "diary papers" of Emily's have survived in which she describes current events in Gondal, some of which were written, others enacted with Anne. One dates from 1841, when Emily was twenty-three: another from 1845, when she was twenty-seven.

One of the fictional works produced by the Brontë siblings was Branwell's *The Life of Alexander Percy*, which tells the story of how he and his wife have such a complete love and understanding for one another that eventually their love becomes self-destructive. Her brother's story was to become the inspiration for *Wuthering Heights*.

unmarked mute swans in open water.

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At seventeen, Emily attended the Roe Head Girls' School, where Charlotte was a teacher but managed to stay only a few months before being overcome by extreme homesickness. At this time, the girls' objective was to obtain sufficient education to open a small school of their own. Emily became a teacher at Law Hill School in Halifax beginning in September 1838, when she was twenty. Her health broke under the stress of the 17-hour work day and she returned home in April 1839. Thereafter she became the stay-at-home daughter, doing most of the cooking, ironing, and cleaning. She taught herself German out of books and also practised the piano.

In 1842, Emily accompanied Charlotte to the Héger Pensionnat in Brussels, Belgium, where they attended the girls' academy run by Constantin Héger. The sisters planned to perfect their French and German in anticipation of opening their school. Nine of Emily's French essays survive from this period. The illness and death of their aunt precipitated their return to Haworth. Although in 1844 they did try to open a school at their home, they were unable to attract students to the remote area.

In 1844, Emily began going through all the poems she had written, recopying them neatly into two notebooks. In the autumn of 1845, Charlotte discovered the notebooks and insisted that the poems be published. Emily, furious at the invasion of her privacy, at first refused, but relented when Anne brought out her own manuscripts and revealed to Charlotte that she had been writing poems in secret as well.

In 1846, the sisters' poems were published in one volume as *Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell*. The Brontë sisters had adopted pseudonyms for publication, preserving their initials: Charlotte was "Currer Bell", Emily was "Ellis Bell" and Anne was "Acton Bell".

Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* was first published in London in 1847 by Thomas Cautley Newby. The author was printed as being Ellis Bell; Emily's real name did not appear until 1850.

Wuthering Heights's violence and passion led the Victorian public and many early reviewers to think that it had been written by a man. Even though the novel received mixed reviews when it first came out, and was often condemned for its portrayal of amoral passion, the book subsequently became an English literary classic. Emily Brontë never knew the extent of fame she achieved with her only novel, as she died a year after its publication, aged 30.

Emily's health was probably weakened by the harsh local climate and by unsanitary conditions at home, the source of water being contaminated by runoff from the church's graveyard. Branwell died suddenly, on Sunday, September 24, 1848. At his funeral service, a week later, Emily caught a severe cold which quickly developed into inflammation of the lungs and led to tuberculosis. On the morning of 19 December 1848, Charlotte, fearing for her sister, wrote this: She grows daily weaker. The physician's opinion was expressed too obscurely to be of use – he sent some medicine which she would not take. Moments so dark as these I have never known – I pray for God's support to us all.

At noon, Emily was worse; she could only whisper in gasps. She died that same day at about two in the afternoon. Emily had grown so thin that her coffin measured only 16 inches wide. The carpenter said he had never made a narrower one for an adult. She was interred in the Church of St Michael and All Angels family capsule in Haworth.

England's history: The founding of England

In 12 July 927, at Eamont Bridge near Penrith, a gathering of kings from throughout Britain was recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and the histories of William of Malmesbury and John of Worcester. King Constantine of Scotland, King Hywel Dda of Deheubarth, Ealdred of Bamburgh, and King Owain of Strathclyde (or Morgan ap Owain of Gwent)[h] accepted overlordship of the English King, Æthelstan.

This is generally seen as the date of the foundation of the Kingdom of England.

The River Eamont straddles the boundary between the ancient counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. There are two ancient sites in the village of Eamont Bridge, namely the earthwork known as King Arthur's Round Table and the much better preserved Mayburgh Henge which is situated between the rivers Lowther and Eamont. Mayburgh henge was built using stones from one or both rivers. The situation between rivers was probably important when it was built 3000 or 4000 years ago, The gateway from Mayburgh Henge points in the direction of King Arthur's Round Table, which was probably a convenient meeting place for millennia.



English culture: Swan Upping

Swan upping is an annual ceremony in England in which mute swans on the River Thames are rounded up, caught, ringed, and then released. By prerogative right, the British Crown enjoys ownership of all

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Rights over swans may, however, be granted to a subject by the Crown (accordingly they may also be claimed by prescription.) The ownership of swans in a given body of water was commonly granted to landowners up to the 16th century. The only bodies still to exercise such rights are two livery companies of the City of London. Thus the ownership of swans in the Thames is shared equally among the Crown, the Vintners' Company and the Dyers' Company. Swan upping is the traditional means by which the swans on the Thames are apportioned among the three proprietors. Its main practical purposes today are to conduct a census of swans and check their health. It occurs annually in the third week of July. Over five days, the Queen's, Vintners' and the Dyers' respective swan uppers row up the river in skiffs in recent centuries from Sunbury-on-Thames to mid Oxfordshire. Swans caught by the Queen's swan uppers under the direction of the Swan Marker are left unmarked, except for a lightweight ring linked to the database of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Those caught by the Dyers and Vintners receive a similar ring on the other leg. Originally, rather than being ringed, swans' bills would be nicked using a metal implement, a practice reflected in the pub name The Swan with Two Necks in the City connected with the Vintners, a corruption of "The Swan with Two Nicks".



The skiffs surround the swans so that they can be more easily caught.

On 20 July 2009, Queen Elizabeth II, as "Seigneur of the Swans," attended the Swan Upping ceremony for the first time in her reign. This was the first time that the monarch had personally watched the ceremony in centuries.

In 2012, exceptional high river flows for summer prompted a partial cancellation: between Sunbury-on-Thames and Windsor, the first definitively known cancellation (albeit partial) in its 900-year history.

Promotion: English Cherries

2015 and 2017 were great years for English Cherries. An estimated 4,500 tonnes were harvested in 2015, an 11% increase on the 4000 tonnes picked in 2014, which itself represented a 20% increase over 2013.

This was a fantastic turnaround when you consider that it was only in 2009 that Henrietta Green, concerned at the loss of a once thriving sector, launched the Cherry Aid campaign. At that time commercial production had all but died out in the UK with the vast majority of cherries being imported from Turkey and most of the rest being air-freighted from the USA.



The biggest factor in this turnaround was the development of dwarfing rootstock. Traditional cherry trees grow up to about 60 feet high, making the crop almost impossible to protect from birds and very difficult to harvest.

Commercially, the far smaller trees are usually grown in polytunnels or netted in England, which protect the fruit not only from birds but also the weather – one hail storm can completely destroy the crop. The costs of setting up are high – in addition to the cost of the rootstock and polytunnels add the installation of drip irrigation and the fact that the trees will not bear fruit for the first couple of years – five before they reach their full cropping potential. However, this is a vast improvement on the time it took on traditional rootstock.

English cherries are grown in two main areas; Kent and Hereford with a few sites in Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Essex. The year's season it runs from around the end of June until the beginning of August.

Recipe: Cherry chocolate pavlova (V)

Chocolate and cherry go together perfectly in this delicious pavlova recipe. By Simon Rimmer from Something for the Weekend. Less than 30 mins preparation time; 30 mins to 1 hour cooking time Serves 4-6

Ingredients:

For the meringue

3 free-range egg whites	175g/6oz caster sugar
25g/1oz dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids), grated	2 tsp cocoa powder
1 tsp sherry vinegar	

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For the topping:

100g/3½oz red cherry conserve
100g/3½oz icing sugar
200g/7oz cherries, stoned
grated chocolate

350g/12oz double cream
1 vanilla pod, split lengthways, seeds scraped out
50ml/2fl oz cherry liqueur

Preparation method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.

Whisk the egg whites in a bowl until stiff peaks form. Whisk in the sugar one tablespoon at a time until glossy.

Fold in the grated chocolate, cocoa powder and sherry vinegar with a metal spoon.

Spoon the mixture in a circle shape onto baking tray. Flatten the middle with the back of a spoon.

Put the meringue into the oven and reduce the temperature to 150C/300F/Gas 2 immediately. Bake for about 45 minutes, or until the meringue has hardened on the outside but is still soft and chewy in the middle.

For the topping, mix the cherry conserve with 50ml/2fl oz boiling water until it becomes a syrup-like consistency. Remove from the heat and set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, in a bowl, whip the double cream and icing sugar together until soft peaks form. Fold in the vanilla pods, cherries, cherry liqueur and cooled cherry conserve.

Spoon the cream cherry mixture onto the pavlova base and top with grated chocolate

http://www.waitrose.com/home/recipes/recipe_directory/ffresh-cherry-pavlova.html



Comment: www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/07/england-identity-politics-left-right

Don't let the right have its way. The left must speak for England

Martin Kettle: (In response to the BBC survey)

Explicit English nationalism remains nonexistent or dormant, not active, unlike other nationalisms in these islands. That the Brexit vote was, in part, an immense expression of English identity is, on the other hand, beyond dispute.

Throughout this week, the BBC's Mark Easton has been reporting on English identity. Most of it is based on a large survey by YouGov that explores the language, contours and contexts of that identity.

The fundamental finding in the BBC's English Question surveys is that 80% of people in England strongly self-identify as English. It also shows that it can't be treated as more or less the same thing as Britain. It shows that political silence and evasion about England are no longer an option.

English identity is a cultural issue that requires more than just a constitutional answer. Nevertheless, England is the largest nation in Europe without its own parliament and it has become difficult to argue against one, with powers similar to those in the rest of the UK. An English parliament would force the progressive wing of politics to engage seriously with England's mood and England's needs. Compared with an English parliament, combined or regional authorities just don't cut it.

OUR PRECIOUS UNION! Theresa May June 2017

(Sucking England dry)

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

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Think of England is published online. Hard copies will cost £3.00 with £1 pp and may be obtained by contacting 0845 6346108 or emailing scilla.cullen@dsl.pipex.com

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