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Campaign for an English Parliament

Think of England Number 91: May 2019



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Number 91 May Year

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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: The Brexit vote highlighted the differences in outlook between England (the net funder) and the rest of the UK (the funded). While the Celtic fringe claim to want independence from their larger



neighbour when it comes to funding either from England or the EU they know which side their bread is buttered. Now that Brexit has illustrated this stark contrast commentators have started to accept that the 'constitution' written in various Acts, such as the 1707 Act (Treaty) of Union but not codified needs to be addressed to include England. The provisions of that Act were totally ignored by the UK government in their headlong rush to appease Scottish 'aspirations'. That disregard shows our 'constitution' is not worth the paper/vellum on which it is variously written. Now the devolved administrations are invited to take part in formulating UK government international policy. These matters were reserved to the UK Parliament when the UK constitution was vandalised by devolution, now, clearly, these undertakings were also worthless and England is further marginalised by being excluded from these debates.

We hear about English hospitals not treating Welsh patients. The Welsh government has to pay for their treatment, that is a consequence of devolution as is the fact that English patients have to pay £9 for every prescription and over the border (next door or over the road) they pay nothing. But we never hear about such problems when the English suffer.

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Campaigning for England :

The next CEP National Council meeting is booked for Sunday 19th May @ 12.00 (noon) at:

Browns Covent Garden
82 - 84 St Martin's Lane

Covent Garden
WC2N 4AG

Tel: 020 7497 5050

Nearest tube - Leicester Square - literally 100 yards or so away. Any member who can attend is welcome.



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### **April 25, 2019: Murdo Fraser MSP From 'Brexit Central':**

Murdo Fraser has been MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife since 2001, is the Scottish Conservative Spokesman on Finance and is author of *Our still United Kingdom – A 'quasi-federal' future?*

#### **Brexit provides the impetus for much-needed reforms to strengthen the British Constitution:**

One of the consequences of Brexit has been to crowd out from political discourse much discussion of further UK constitutional reform. The irony is that the UK constitution, unwritten as it may be, will have to adapt to take account of post-Brexit arrangements. Our departure from the EU, and the disapplication of EU Law and its replacement with the new concept of 'EU Retained Law', as set out in the EU Withdrawal Act 2018, will require new processes, and structures, to be created within the UK

And yet, very little thinking has been done about what this all means for the British constitution, and specifically for relationships between the four nations that make up our Union. We will face these challenges sooner than we think. And with nationalists in different parts of the United Kingdom seeking to use Brexit uncertainty for their own political ends, it is important that unionists have a coherent response.

What has become clear is that there are areas of responsibility previously exercised at an EU level, for example on agriculture or the environment, which in terms of the devolution settlement would normally fall to the Scottish Parliament or Welsh Assembly to be exercised. However, there is a clear shared interest in certain decisions in these areas being taken in future on a common UK-wide basis.

I believe that our departure from the EU provides the impetus to introduce important governmental and constitutional reforms to create a 'quasi-federal' future for the four nations of the Union. In practice, there are four key reforms that I believe are required to strengthen the UK constitution post-Brexit:

**A new Statute or Charter of Union.** This new Act of the UK Parliament would declare the creation of a quasi-federal state, and provide in law for the UK's intergovernmental machinery.

**A new Senate representing different parts of the UK.** The House of Lords as it currently exists should be abolished and replaced with a new Senate, or Upper House, representing different parts of the UK, predominantly if not entirely elected, and fulfilling the role both of a revising chamber and as a counterweight to the House of Commons.

**A new UK Council of Ministers.** The establishment of UK Common Frameworks requires the replacement of the existing Joint Ministerial Committee system with a new UK Council of Ministers, representing component parts of the country.

**A new English Grand Committee.** In the absence of significant further devolution or moves to federation within England, there is a need for England as a whole to be represented within the new UK Council of Ministers, with representatives elected by the English Grand Committee.

This package of reforms could, together, address a number of current issues.

It modernises the UK Constitution, and allows it to adapt to the new situation that has been created following our departure from the EU, and the disapplication of EU law.

It delivers the long-awaited and overdue reform of the House of Lords, giving a better balance to the UK Constitution and protecting the interests of the nations and regions furthest from London.

It allows the people of England for the first time a proper voice within the institutions of the UK, distinct from that of the UK Government, which also has to have a wider consideration for all the Union's component parts.

Taken together, these proposals modernise and strengthen the UK constitution, and help us adapt to the post-Brexit world. Simply carrying on as we are is not an option.

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29 April 2019: From Open Democracy: Ben Rogers:

London - the most English of cities? London is often seen as separate and aloof from England. But

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there's a more complex story about its culture, which gives clues about how the capital could help address the nation's discontent.

Late last year, London's Mayor Sadiq Khan gave a speech emphasising London's need to make common cause with other cities and regions in campaigning for more power. In it he reminded the audience that London is "an English and a British city". In one sense the statement is a truism. London is the capital of Britain and also a city in England.



But it was also oddly striking. Both London's champions and its detractors tend to agree that the capital is the very model of a global city – one that has grown apart from its nation. The idea that London is an English city might be considered particularly unorthodox. Britishness, after all, is generally taken to be more cosmopolitan than Englishness, which, especially among progressives, is seen as being a narrow and problematic, if not pathological identity. But this is a misread of London and of Englishness – and one with unhelpful consequences for our national politics.

A city state, not an English city?

There is no denying London's international character. Over the last couple of decades globalisation and urbanisation have gone hand in hand, with wealth and status becoming increasingly concentrated in a few 'world cities'. London has attracted migrants, investors and visitors from around the globe, thus expanding its economic lead over the rest of UK as well as growing and becoming more cosmopolitan.

Little wonder then that Londoners have become increasingly conscious of themselves as having their own cosmopolitan identity which sets them apart from the rest of the country – a process helped no doubt by the existence, from 2000, of a Mayor for London. It's become common for Londoners to talk about London being 'another country' or even a nascent city state. Post-Brexit referendum, 180,000 Londoners signed a petition demanding the capital leave the UK and remain part of the EU. And if London is a global city first, it is surely a British city second. **London is home to the UK's Crown, Parliament and government, but no distinctly English political institutions. Indeed, if a capital is defined as the seat of government then it could be argued that England has no capital as England has no government of its own.** (*Editor's emphasis*) In terms of their history, most of London's great cultural organisations were created after the 1707 Union with Scotland, and are more British than English. This is true of The British Library, The British Museum, The Royal Opera House, The National Gallery and The Royal Academy of Arts, to name a few.

Or archetypically English?

But just in raw numbers, London is by far the biggest English city, in the sense of city with the most English-born residents and the largest number of people who identify as English. The 2011 Census asked respondents for the first time about their sense of national identity. 47% of Londoners identify themselves as English (either exclusively or alongside other identities). This figure was much lower than for any other region and almost half of that of the North East – the region with the strongest English identity. But it still meant that around three and a half million Londoners identify as English.

Many of the city's most famous buildings - the Tower, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral - were built before the Union with Scotland. And while England may not have its own government or major cultural institutions, it does have a number of national sporting teams, which have developed as particularly important carriers of Englishness.

London also has some post-Union English cultural organisations, like Cecil Sharp House, established in 1930 as a home for English folk music. London-based producers and labels play a central role in English folk music, which has seen something of a recent revival, as Englanders seek to reconnect with their musical roots.

Above all perhaps, a disproportionate number of great distinctively English writers and artists were or became Londoners. Just think of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Johnson, Fielding, Dickens, Woolf and Orwell, among historical writers. Or Hogarth, Gillray or William Blake among artists. Blake, author of 'Jerusalem', England's de facto national anthem, did not spend his life walking on England's 'mountains green'. He was a Londoner through and through, brought up in Soho, and immersed in the capital's culture and politics all his life.

How can London play its part in addressing England's discontent?

I point all this out not just as a matter of cultural curiosity. England has gained a new power as a source of social and cultural identity and political mobilisation. This renewed sense of Englishness tends to be represented as a problem for progressive politics, on the grounds that the politics of English nationhood is, or has become, firmly reactionary – that every Englander is a little Englander.

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England certainly voted for Brexit in higher numbers than the other nations, and support for Brexit is strongest among those who identify as English. But this is too fast. There are many versions of England, including progressive, inclusionary ones - ones at home in the modern, globalised world. Writers like Mike Kenny and Sunder Katwala have written well about the various civic, polychrome versions of Englishness. To the extent that English identity is bound up with a sense of grievance, it's hardly surprising. The nations of the United Kingdom now enjoy their own political identity and democratic institutions, but England does not. Scottish and Welsh cultural, political and civic leaders view their national identity as a source of pride, creativity and democratic possibility, but English elites are generally ill at ease with Englishness. If London is going to play its part in answering English discontent and developing a more creative version of what it means to be English in the modern world, then we need to understand, celebrate and develop London's identity not just as a global capital, but as a British one, and even more, an English one.

Current English Affairs:

'Defeatist' police fail to investigate fraud cases

April 2 2019, The Times: Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

Police are failing to investigate fraud cases even when there is compelling evidence because of a defeatist culture, according to a watchdog's report. One force failed to pursue 96 per cent of the cases passed to it by a national intelligence bureau over one month. Officers are seeking reasons to drop inquiries because fraud does not "bang, bleed or shout", the report said. Only cases considered to have credible lines of inquiry are passed to the police to investigate. The overwhelming majority of cases reported to Action Fraud are assessed and dismissed by computer and never looked at again.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated there were 3.3 million incidents of fraud, about one third of all crimes, in the year to last June. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services examined how fraud was investigated at 11 forces and found that police and other agencies were inefficient and disjointed in their approach. It said that many victims were not receiving the service they deserved and were left confused and disillusioned after losing both large and small amounts of money. Without change fraudsters will feel that they can act with impunity, it concluded. The inspectorate said that some forces were "seeking reasons" not to investigate. Inspectors said that some cases had a good degree of evidence, including identified suspects, but staff said that their job was to "reduce demand".



Dementia care not good enough in half of NHS local healthcare groups, state official ratings.

April 2 2019, Times:Chris Smyth Health Editor

One in three patients affected by the condition does not have a diagnosis, with large variations across the country, the figures show. Experts have accused the government of losing focus on dementia as the number of patients continues to rise. About 850,000 Britons have dementia and, with no cure in sight, helping people to live well with the condition is regarded as increasingly important.

Analysis by the *Daily Mail* of figures on the My NHS website shows that 19 of the clinical commissioning groups that fund care locally are rated "inadequate" and 66 as "requires improvement". This compares with 43 rated "good" and 52 "outstanding".

Clive Ballard, a dementia specialist at the University of Exeter, told the newspaper: "In 2012 David Cameron made a commitment to tackle dementia. The current figures show no subsequent progress. It feels very much like these pledges have been kicked into the long grass."

While the latest figures suggest a slight improvement since the "Ofsted-style" ratings were introduced more than two years ago, big variations in diagnosis rates persist. In Camden, north London, it is estimated that 91 per cent of those with dementia have a diagnosis and the NHS help that comes with it, while just 52 per cent do in Cornwall.

Alistair Burns, national clinical director for dementia at NHS England, said: "The NHS Long Term Plan prioritises further improvements, with GPs being given additional support to spot the tell-tale signs."

English hospital refuses to treat Welsh patients unless an emergency

5 April 2019. Telegraph: Laura Donnelly, health editor

Doctors and nurses have been told they cannot accept residents from across the border due to an ongoing payment dispute. Only emergencies, maternity cases and patients previously referred to the hospital will be exempt from the new rule.

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The move comes after a row erupted between the trust which runs the Countess of Chester Hospital and the Welsh government. The change - which means GPs in Wales will no longer be able to refer patients for treatment at the hospital over the border - has been implemented with immediate effect.

Around one in five of patients treated by the hospital live in Wales. Hospital chief executive Susan Gilby said: "Unfortunately, the trust is currently unable to accept any new elective work relating to patients living in Wales. "This is a difficult decision that has been taken with great reluctance. Unfortunately, this is a step we have to take as a result of unresolved funding issues." Ms Gilby said contract negotiations were continuing and the trust was working with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in north Wales to resolve the issue. The trust's chairman, Sir Duncan Nichol, previously said caring for patients from Wales was "hard to countenance" claiming that the current contract did not cover its costs.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "Along with NHS Wales representatives, Welsh Government has agreed a process of engagement with the Department of Health and Social Care officials and representatives from the English NHS to discuss cross-border payment arrangements. In the context of ongoing engagement, any actions taken by English providers to limit access for Welsh patients on financial grounds are unacceptable and not in the spirit of reaching a cross-border agreement with English NHS representatives."

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### **Drivers across Britain are set to fork out up to £50-a-day within some of the UK's busiest cities.**

April 8 2019, Daily Express: Luke John Smith

In London, motorists will now have to pay up to £24 a day as the £12.50 Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) charge will need to be paid in conjunction with the Congestion Charge Zone (CCZ) fee of £11.50. The ULEZ charge has been introduced today in London in an ambitious new air quality plan. Anyone who fails to pay the charge will have to fork out £160 fine, which will be reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days. Unlike the CCZ which is in force between the hours of 7:00 am and 18:00 pm Monday to Friday the ULEZ runs 24-hours a day seven days a week. Lorry drivers face paying £100 a day to use their vehicle in a bid to clamp down on dangerous air pollution.



Elsewhere in the UK (*they only refer to England. Ed.*), similar charges and Clean Air Zones (CAZs) have been proposed and approved in a number of other cities.

Newcastle, Gateshead, Tyneside, Leeds, and Birmingham are all expected to introduce CAZs to tackle the high levels of pollution in city centres.

In Leeds, the zone will tackle larger vehicles and car owners will actually escape the fee. Buses and coaches and HGVs must pay a £50 charge while taxis and private hire vehicles must pay £12.50. The CAZ in Leeds will come into force on 6th January 2020. It has been met with backlash from the Road Haulage Association who described it as a "punitive tax on the industry sector that Leeds relies on to maintain its economy and local businesses will inevitably be put at risk."

A new pollution charge is also expected to be brought to Newcastle and Gateshead. Motorists driving lorries and buses face £50 charges while car owners and van drivers face £12.50 charges.

There could also be a £3.40 tariff placed on three major bridges in the city to further deter motorists from driving in the city. As a result, Gateshead and Newcastle are expected to be included in the CAZ. The affected bridges are proposed to be the Tyne, Redheugh and Swing Bridges linking the two cities.

Birmingham City Council is also planning on bringing in a charge of £8 a day for non-compliant private cars, taxis and vans. Much like in Leeds and Newcastle, HGVs lorries and coaches will pay £50 per day. All roads within the A4540 Middleway ring road will be covered by the Clean Air Zone boundary.

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Road upgrades are quietly scrapped as money runs out

April 24 2019, The Times: Graeme Paton, Transport Correspondent

A tunnel underneath Stonehenge was part of a programme of road repairs — many of which have now been delayed. One in ten road building schemes promised as part of the biggest upgrade of the network in a generation could be scrapped for financial reasons.

Highways England said that plans to improve 11 main roads would be paused indefinitely because the investment could no longer be justified. A third of the upgrades would be delayed, possibly for five years, for fear of overloading the network with too many works at the same time. The disclosure brought criticism yesterday that the government's central policy to rebuild motorways and A-roads was in a mess and

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that delaying the investment needed to combat rising traffic levels could increase congestion.

The government's £15 billion road investment strategy (RIS) was billed as the biggest upgrade of its kind for a generation when it was launched by the coalition government in late 2014. The five-year programme was supposed to upgrade 112 sections of road, including placing the A303 in a tunnel under Stonehenge, increasing sections of dual carriageway on the A1 in the northeast, and upgrading a third of the junctions on the M25.

It has already been criticised by the National Audit Office, which said that the programme was rushed out for political reasons just before the 2015 general election. Highways England has now confirmed that some upgrades are likely to be scrapped.

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### Cuts prevent us investigating 60% of crimes says Greater Manchester police chief

April 24 2019, The Times: John Simpson, Crime Correspondent

One of Britain's largest police forces is regularly abandoning investigations into thefts and break-ins as officers struggle to handle caseloads, the chief constable has admitted.

Ian Hopkins, the chief constable of Greater Manchester, said that the force had increasingly been giving priority to dealing with violent crime and other more serious cases and had no choice but to drop lower-level investigations, including those into bike thefts and vehicle and shed break-ins. He said that although there had been a rise in police funding from council tax, 80 per cent of the force's budget was made up of government grants, which had been cut.



The practice of screening out crimes, often within the first 24 hours of an offence being committed, has risen steadily. The number of cases closed with no suspect identified rose from just over 1.9 million nationally in 2015 to almost 2.4 million last year. Crime has simultaneously risen in almost every category, with violent crime and murder up every year for the past four years, while the number of cases resulting in charges has fallen. Senior police figures blame budget cuts that have led to an estimated 30,000 fewer officers.

Forces have been criticised for setting targets for screening out crimes — with some aiming to halt investigations in about 56 per cent of cases. The National Police Chiefs' Council said in February that the rise in screening was in part due to better recording practices, stressing that officers were assessing harm levels in each case. However, it also said that police chiefs were continuing to express their concern about the damage that budget cuts had done to proactive policing.

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Campaign wants regional mayors cut down to size

April 30 2019, The Times: Sam Coates

A new generation of hyper-local parties will be fighting local elections by campaigning against regional mayors such as Greater Manchester's Andy Burnham.

There are nine directly elected mayors whose remit covers more than one local authority area, including London, Greater Manchester, Tees Valley and the West of England. Five are controlled by Labour and four by the Conservatives. The regional mayors, a brainchild of George Osborne, cover vast areas with several different local identities. This has prompted new local political parties to spring up, complaining that they ignore local concerns.

The Stalybridge Town Party, which is campaigning to install two councillors, puts opposing ideas from Mr Burnham at the top of their policy platform. They promise "realistic regeneration plans for our town centre that go beyond Andy Burnham's vision". The party grew out of the Stalybridge Business Forum two years ago and last year managed to get 25 per cent of the vote.

Lee Stafford, 47, who is standing for the party, told the *Manchester Evening News*: "People want change. Stalybridge has seen lots of buildings sold off, assets sold, but nothing comes back in."

Other new local parties want closer links between what locals pay in tax and the services they receive.

James Mason is standing as an independent but is in the final stages of setting up a new party, Radcliffe First, with the Electoral Commission. He argues that more of the £20 million or so Radcliffe pays in council tax should be spent on the area, according to the *Manchester Evening News*. "There's a feeling of neglect for the town centre," he says.

Carol Birchmore, who is also setting up Radcliffe First, refers to Mr Burnham's plan for a new school in the area as a "bribe", saying: "The people of Radcliffe should not have to accept 3,500 houses adding to an

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already overburdened infrastructure. . . in order to get a new school.”

English politics:

02 April 2019: Commons Select Welsh Affairs Committee: The Committee launches an inquiry into the effects and value of funding provided to Wales from the UK and Welsh Governments through Growth and City Deals, and how lessons learnt can be built into proposals for similar deals to boost economic growth throughout Wales.



02 April 2019: Commons Select Transport Committee: The Transport Committee launches an inquiry to explore the problems of pavement parking in England and consider possible solutions. As pavement parking is devolved, the focus is on England only.

‘Pavement parking’ is when one or more wheels of a vehicle are on the footpath. As well as creating obstacles for people wanting to use footpaths, Councils face additional costs to repair damage to surfaces which are not designed to take the weight of motor vehicles. Parking on pavements creates real problems. For those with visual difficulties, who use mobility aids, or need to navigate footpaths with children, unpredictable hazards such as cars represent a potential danger.

A mix of criminal and civil sanctions are available to police and local councils to enforce restrictions on pavement parking on private or commercial drivers. Parking on footways or pavements was banned in London in 1974, and it’s prohibited for large goods vehicles across England.

Lack of progress in tackling pavement parking has led many groups to campaign on the issue and although it is regularly raised with MPs by their constituents, the Government has not taken any action on this issue in recent years.

03 April 2019: Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee: The Committee has called on the Government to take urgent action to enable local authorities to prepare for the consequences of Brexit.

In their report published today, the Committee sets out urgent priorities to improve information sharing and Brexit preparations at a local level. The report further sets out key policy actions that the Government needs to take in the long term to tackle the loss of EU funding streams and the repatriation of policy and legislation currently held by the EU, and to seize the opportunity Brexit presents to re-evaluate how funding and powers can be devolved to local government in order to create the best outcomes for communities.

12 April 2019: Lords debates National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure: On Thursday 11 April, members of the House of Lords debated the draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure 2018

18 April 2019: Commons Select Health and Social Care Committee: The Committee questions Sustainability and Transformation Partnership(STP) leaders and NHS national representative bodies.

Purpose of the session: Following its report last year on Integrated care: organisations, partnerships and systems the Committee is scrutinising the legislative proposals put forward to support the implementation of the NHS Long-term Plan. The inquiry is focussing on the detailed proposals published by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

In this second session the Committee will hear from STP leaders and NHS national representative bodies. The purpose of this session is to enable the Committee to build on the initial assessment of the NHS’s proposals for legislative change from the first session, held on Tuesday 2 April.

29 April 2019: Commons Select Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee : Joint Statement from The Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit

The Scottish Parliament hosted the seventh Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit. The forum provides an opportunity for interparliamentary dialogue between legislatures within the United Kingdom, to support more effective scrutiny of Brexit related issues.

Letter to Rt. Hon. David Lidington MP regarding Intergovernmental Relations, dated

26 April 2019: Representatives of Committees scrutinising Brexit-related issues in the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales, House of Commons and House of Lords, met to discuss and agree

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their response to the UK Minister for the Cabinet Office on the review of Intergovernmental relations. This letter recommends that the outcome of the review should include explicit recognition of the scrutiny role for UK and Devolved Parliaments including the timely provision of information. It also recognises the commitment of the UK Minister for the Cabinet Office to resourcing and supporting proposals jointly put forward by the UK Legislatures.

The Forum also discussed common frameworks **and the role of devolved administrations in future international agreements.** (*Editor's emphasis*) As part of those discussions the Forum met with Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.

The Forum also recommends, in its letter to the UK Minister for the Cabinet Office, that each Parliament is given sufficient time and opportunity to scrutinise and approve common frameworks.

Finally the Forum agreed a terms of reference as annexed to this statement. An official from the Northern Ireland Assembly was in attendance as an observer.

Participants agreed the following statement after the forum:

“Notwithstanding our differing political positions on Brexit, our respective Committees remain committed to working collaboratively to ensure effective scrutiny of the impact of Brexit across the UK. That is demonstrated by our shared and agreed recommendations to the Minister for the Cabinet Office on ensuring that a role for the UK and Devolved Parliaments in scrutinising intergovernmental relations is recognised by the Joint Ministerial Committee review currently underway.



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**26 April 2019: Commons Select Education Committee:** The Committee is holding a roundtable meeting with representatives from opportunity areas (OA) across England to discuss how the programme is working to support children and young people in disadvantaged areas.

The OA programme was announced by the Government in 2016 with the aim of providing additional support in disadvantaged areas to improve outcomes for young people. The programme also aims to learn from what works in the 12 OA areas and spread effective practice.

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April 2019: Commons Select Public Accounts Committee: Local Enterprise Partnerships: progress review inquiry

Scope of the inquiry: Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are private sector led partnerships between businesses and local public sector bodies. They were established in 2011 to drive economic growth in local areas. There are 38 LEPs in England, each operating across more than one local authority. The government has committed £12 billion to local areas in England between 2015-16 and 2020-21. Of this, £9.1 billion has already been allocated through Growth Deals negotiated between central government and individual LEPs. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) is accountable overall for the Local Growth Fund and the delivery system within which LEPs invest the funding. The Committee reported on the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership in May 2018. The National Audit Office (NAO) will report to the Public Accounts Committee on the work of the LEPs and MHCLG in early May. On 13 May the Committee will question the Permanent Secretary and other senior officials from MHCLG on the governance, transparency and value-for-money of LEPs and progress to meet the recommendations set out in previous NAO and Committee reports and Mary Ney's Review of Local Enterprise Partnership governance and transparency, which was commissioned to respond to NAO and PAC concerns.

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**England's heroes/heroines: Florence Nightingale**

Florence Nightingale, OM, RRC, DStJ (12 May 1820 – 13 August 1910) English nursing pioneer of the Crimean War and an English social reformer and statistician, the founder of modern nursing.

Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers. She gave nursing a favourable reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture, especially in the persona of "The Lady with the Lamp" making rounds of wounded soldiers at night.

In 1860, Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London. It was the first secular nursing school in the world, and is now part of King's College London. In recognition of her pioneering work in nursing, the Nightingale

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Pledge taken by new nurses, and the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve, were named in her honour, and the annual International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on her birthday. Her social reforms included improving healthcare for all sections of British society, advocating better hunger relief in India, helping to abolish prostitution laws that were harsh for women, and expanding the acceptable forms of female participation in the workforce.

*Florence Nightingale, circa 1860*

Nightingale was a prodigious and versatile writer. In her lifetime, much of her published work was concerned with spreading medical knowledge. Some of her tracts were written in simple English so that they could easily be understood by those with poor literary skills. She was also a pioneer in the use of infographics, effectively using graphical presentations of statistical data. Much of her writing, including her extensive

work on religion and mysticism, has only been published posthumously.

Florence Nightingale's most famous contribution came during the Crimean War, which became her central focus when reports got back to Britain about the horrific conditions for the wounded. On 21 October 1854, she and the staff of 38 women volunteer nurses that she trained, including her aunt Mai Smith, and 15 Catholic nuns (mobilised by Henry Edward Manning) were sent (under the authorisation of Sidney Herbert) to the Ottoman Empire. Nightingale was assisted in Paris by her friend Mary Clarke. They were deployed about 295 nautical miles (546 km; 339 mi) across the Black Sea from Balaklava in the Crimea, where the main British camp was based.

Nightingale arrived early in November at Selimiye Barracks in Scutari (modern day Üsküdarin Istanbul). Her team found that poor care for wounded soldiers was being delivered by overworked medical staff in the face of official indifference. Medicines were in short supply, hygiene was being neglected, and mass infections were common, many of them fatal. There was no equipment to process food for the patients.

"This frail young woman [...] embraced in her solicitude the sick of three armies". —Lucien Baudens, *La guerre de Crimée, les campements, les abris, les ambulances, les hôpitaux*, p.104

After Nightingale sent a plea to *The Times* for a government solution to the poor condition of the facilities, the British Government commissioned Isambard Kingdom Brunel to design a prefabricated hospital that could be built in England and shipped to the Dardanelles. The result was Renkioi Hospital, a civilian facility that, under the management of Dr Edmund Alexander Parkes, had a death rate less than 1/10th that of Scutari.

Stephen Paget in the *Dictionary of National Biography* asserted that Nightingale reduced the death rate from 42% to 2%, either by making improvements in hygiene herself, or by calling for the Sanitary Commission. For example, Nightingale implemented handwashing and other hygiene practices in the war hospital in which she worked.

During her first winter at Scutari, 4,077 soldiers died there. Ten times more soldiers died from illnesses such as typhus, typhoid, cholera and dysentery than from battle wounds. With overcrowding, defective sewers and lack of ventilation, the Sanitary Commission had to be sent out by the British government to Scutari in March 1855, almost six months after Nightingale had arrived. The commission flushed out the sewers and improved ventilation. Death rates were sharply reduced, but she never claimed credit for helping to reduce the death rate. Nightingale still believed that the death rates were due to poor nutrition, lack of supplies, stale air and overworking of the soldiers. After she returned to Britain and began collecting evidence before the Royal Commission on the Health of the Army, she came to believe that most of the soldiers at the hospital were killed by poor living conditions. This experience influenced her later career, when she advocated sanitary living conditions as of great importance. Consequently, she reduced peacetime deaths in the army and turned her attention to the sanitary design of hospitals and the introduction of sanitation in working-class homes.

Critics agree on the importance of her later work in professionalising nursing roles for women. In 2001 and 2008 the BBC released documentaries that were critical of Nightingale's performance in the Crimean War, as were some follow-up articles published in *The Guardian* and the *Sunday Times*. Nightingale scholar Lynn McDonald has dismissed these criticisms as "often preposterous", arguing they are not supported by the primary sources.

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### England's history: 13 May 1607 the Midland Revolt

Riots took place in Northamptonshire and other Midland counties of England in protest at widespread enclosure of common land. In 1607, beginning on May Eve in Haselbech, Northamptonshire and spreading

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to Warwickshire and Leicestershire throughout May, riots took place as a protest against the enclosure of common land. Now known as the Midland Revolt, it drew considerable support and was led by John Reynolds, otherwise known as 'Captain Pouch', a tinker said to be from Desborough, Northamptonshire. He told the protesters he had authority from the King and the Lord of Heaven to destroy enclosures and promised to protect protesters by the contents of his pouch, carried by his side, which he said would keep them from all harm (after he was captured, his pouch was opened; all that was in it was a piece of green cheese). Thousands of people were recorded at Hillmorton, Warwickshire and at Cotesbach, Leicestershire. A curfew was imposed in the city of Leicester, as it was feared citizens would stream out of the city to join the riots. A gibbet was erected in Leicester as a warning, and was pulled down by the citizens. The culmination of the Midlands Revolt was the Newton Rebellion. In early June, over a thousand protesters had gathered in Newton, near Kettering, Northamptonshire to protest against the enclosures of Thomas Tresham, pulling down hedges and filling ditches. He was much disliked for an enclosure policy towards common land. Following a riot which destroyed some of his hedges, he had 50 people executed. Women and children were part of the protest.



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### English culture: Marking day

<https://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/16213086.cows-return-to-minchinhampton-common/>

A centuries old tradition near Stroud will be celebrated on the Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons again this year. Marking day, which is always held on 13 May, is the date on or after which graziers can release their cattle to roam the ancient common grasslands for the summer.

The day takes its name from when the cows were brought from their home farms to a pound at the Old Lodge to be "marked" with identifying ear tags, or more historically with a branding iron, before they were freed.



Grazing is essential to the management of the beloved hilltop open spaces, without it scrubby woodland could begin to encroach, and rare wildlife habitats would be destroyed. Modern traffic across the unfenced commons has, however, caused some conflict with cattle in recent years and motorists are warned to be aware that cattle will be back on the commons.

Campaigners have increased their road safety efforts and this summer a new vehicle activated sign is set to warn motorists to slow down to avoid the cows. The sign was funded for Minchinhampton Parish Council by Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Martin Surl, who is also expected to attend the Marking Day event, alongside Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service representatives.

National Trust volunteers, supported by the charity's staff and other organisations, will hold a free information day for the public at Old Lodge on 13 May from 10am until 3pm. As part of the day there will be guided walks, talks, and a film which will highlight the importance of both commons' archaeology and explain more about the rare wild flowers, butterflies and birds that can be found there. Ecologist Dave Simcox will be on hand to explain his wildlife surveys of the commons, environmental charity the Stroud Valleys Project will attend, and the Back from the Brink project, an organisation which works to save threatened species from extinction, will also be there.

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### Promotion of English produce: Lamb

Some of the places our lamb comes from are independent farms in Northern England, and you can taste the natural sweetness from the heather and clover that is plentiful across the hillside farms. Buyers look for a general plumpness on the leg and shoulder of the lamb, knowing that this gives a nice amount of creamy-white fat, as opinion states that fat on lamb is very much full of flavour.



Cheap imported Halal lamb from New Zealand may be available all year round, but in season English lamb is hard to beat. In May and June lamb is at its most tender but as the season progresses the flavour develops. Spring lamb is fantastic for roasting simply with garlic and herbs, autumn lamb is great when given a spicier, more adventurous treatment.

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**History:** Sheep thrive in a variety of climates and have been the principal meat source across North Africa and Eurasia for centuries. The Industrial Revolution sparked an increased demand for meat and led to the increased breeding of sheep for meat in the UK. We can now reap the reward of several generations of selective breeding for taste and texture; well-reared lamb today is likely to be better than any eaten at any time in the past.

**Biology:** Lambs are the offspring of the domestic sheep, *ovis aries*. Lambs are typically weaned to a diet of grass between the ages of 1 and 3 months and the consumption of grass adds flavour to lamb. The majority of lamb sold in England is from animals between four months and a year old. The meat of older animals is properly referred to as *hoggett* (up to approximately two years old) and then mutton (the categorisation of the meat is often based on the farmer's judgement of its qualities rather than its exact age).

There was a faint acknowledgement of English produce in the English Beef and Lamb Executive and its logo with the English flag. (Not that we ever found meat with this logo attached it always had the British State flag on the logo). Since 2015 that organisation has been superseded by an amorphous UK organisation AHDB Beef and Lamb, which is a division of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) and delivers services to beef and lamb levy payers in England. It exists to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the English beef and lamb sector. It was renamed Beef and Lamb in June 2015. Its functions and aims remain unchanged:

To help the English beef and sheep meat supply chain become more efficient

To add value to the English beef and sheep meat industry.

It is funded through a statutory levy paid to the AHDB on all beef and sheep animals slaughtered in, or live animals exported from, England.



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### Recipe: Slow-cooked lamb with onions & thyme

By **Mary Cadogan**

READY IN 3.5 HOURS: EASY: SERVES 4

Five ingredients, one pot, no effort. This meltingly tender lamb dish is satisfyingly rich, and virtually cooks itself

#### Ingredients:

half a leg of lamb (about 1¼kg/2lb 12oz)      1kg onion (about 4 large ones)  
handful of thyme sprigs      300ml red wine  
large handful parsley



#### Method:

Firstly, prepare the lamb. Heat oven to 160C/fan 140C/gas 3. Wipe the meat all over and season well. Heat 3 tbsp of olive oil in a large heavy flameproof casserole, add the meat and fry all over on a fairly high heat for about 8 mins, turning until it is evenly well browned. Remove to a plate.

Thinly slice the onions. Add to the pan and fry for about 10 mins, until softened and tinged with brown.

Add a few of the thyme sprigs and cook for a further minute or so. Season with salt and pepper.

Sit the lamb on top of the onions, then add the wine. Cover tightly. Bake for 3 hrs. You can make to this stage up to 2 days in advance, then reheat for 45 mins.

To finish off, strip the leaves from 2 thyme sprigs and chop them with the parsley. Scatter over before serving. *Recipe from Good Food magazine, January 2005*

**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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