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

Think of England Number 93: July 2019



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Number 93 July 2019

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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:

We were very pleased to see that the Queen's banquet for President Trump included two English sparkling wines. We recall that the Englishman, Merret, first discovered the so-called 'Champagne method'. It seems that the special channel for Scotland launched by the BBC at a cost of £32 million paid for by the rest of the UK is not that popular. However after wasting our licence money in this way the BBC sees fit to withdraw the free licence for UK pensioners under the pretence that it cannot afford it.

We note a rather smug letter from Misty Williams, Minister for education, Welsh government telling the British State Government how to govern education in England. Of course omitting the fact that per head of population the Welsh government receives £1,178 from the State Government than it sees fit to spend on England. This enables the Welsh government to spend more per head on education compared with that spent by the State Government on education for English domiciled students.

We are continually told that the British State is wealthy. However every aspect of social support in England seems to be short of funds. Is the British State wealthy because of it?

The National Council is not currently spending scarce resources campaigning amongst the British elite whilst their concentration is entirely on Brexit. However individuals can make a difference by lobbying their MPs and writing to newspapers especially in response to articles that do not make it clear that England is the subject.



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Campaigning for England : England - the nation that is not to be named?

JOHN DENHAM and GARETH YOUNG 29 October 2018 in OpenDemocracy

Where once politicians spoke of England when they meant Britain, they now speak of Britain when they mean England.

When UK party leaders regale their conferences with promises on health, schools, social care and housing their actual writ runs no further than the English border. Outside England most domestic policy will be determined by other politicians, usually from different parties, and elected – with no English input - to their own parliaments. That has been the effect and the intention of 20 years of devolution.

While the leaders do address major UK-wide issues, of course- not least Brexit and the ‘end of austerity’ - for the larger part these are conferences in and about England. Yet, quite bizarrely, England, as England, plays almost no part in the language or vision of the party leaders. This year Theresa May, Jeremy Corbyn and Vince Cable managed to name England just once between them. Even the leaders of the SNP and Plaid Cymru named England four times between them (though not necessarily in the most complimentary context).

The leaders’ disdain for England is mirrored by their juniors. James Brokenshire, whose responsibilities at Communities and Local Government are almost entirely English, spoke at his party conference for 19 minutes without naming England once. John Healey only makes Labour housing policy for England alone but also failed to name the nation. Vague formulations like ‘our country’, or even saying ‘Britain’ when the target audience is England is endemic across the body politic.

Where once politicians spoke of England when they meant Britain, motivating calls for devolution and separation in Scotland and Wales, they now speak of Britain when they mean England, leaving the English as the unspoken people. Four out of five residents identify strongly as English, but much of the liberal left insists that Englishness belongs to the far right. For both left and right, acknowledging that England is a nation and a democratic political community raises uncomfortable questions about why England is governed by the UK Parliament and not by its own elected MPs. The Conservative Government depends on the DUP. The last Labour government used Celtic MPs to pass English laws.

There is not yet a significant *political* movement of English nationalism. But ignored by their politicians, many voters are developing a separate sense of English grievance. This grievance is forming a powerful and rather unbiddable force. It was England and the English who provided most of the votes that are taking the whole union out of the EU. This month the Future of England survey showed half the voters in England would rather have Brexit than keep Scotland in the union or sustain the peace process in Northern Ireland. Theresa May can say the Tories are Conservative and Unionists, but these far-from-unionist views are shared by three-quarters of her English voters.

The Prime Minister’s tortuous European negotiations are constrained by voters (and MPs) who don’t value the union or the peace process as much as she. Jeremy Corbyn struggles to win working class English voters even when they support many Labour policies. Across Western Europe ignored and unrepresented communities have proved fertile ground for dangerous populist movements. Rather than ignore the English it might be better if our parties began to talk to them and work out how to give them a democratic voice.

Current English Affairs:

Sharp rise in countryside lost to housing

Times 1/6/19: Ben Webster Environment Editor

The amount of countryside lost to housing estates has almost doubled in the past five years, according to official figures that call into question government claims that it is prioritising derelict sites for new homes.

A total of 3,689 hectares of previously undeveloped land, known as greenfield land, was occupied by new housing in the year to the end of March 2018, up from 2,105 hectares in 2013-14, according to analysis by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). -

Council to fund its own bobbies on the beat

The Times 4/6/2019: Neil Johnston, Midlands Correspondent

At a time of concern about the falling number of bobbies and cuts to police budgets, Walsall council plans to join a scheme under which it will pay for more officers across the borough.

The Patrol Plus scheme has been operating in London since 2008 and has been called “buy-one-get-one-

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free” policing since the force provides one officer for every one paid for by councils.

In London the scheme may be scrapped due to “financial and operational implications”, but Walsall is hoping that it can be introduced there.

Across the country police budgets fell by 19 per cent between 2010 and 2018 and overall the number of officers was reduced by 20,000 over the same period. Local policing has suffered some of the biggest cuts. There are now just over 100 officers in Walsall's neighbourhood policing unit compared with 529 in 2010. In London the Patrol Plus scheme funds more than 300 officers, with half of the capital's boroughs taking part in the programme. Councils pay up to £1.4 million a year into the scheme and officers focus on priority issues including gangs and antisocial behaviour but it is now being reviewed.

The scheme has been criticised for its lack of flexibility as it does not allow the transfer of officers to deal with other demands, such as an increase in violent crime.

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### Tuition fee review and Welsh example

Times letters 4/6/19

Sir, Your report (May 30, and letters, May 31 & Jun 1) of the review of post-18 education and funding chaired by Philip Augar omitted to mention that it concerns only higher and further education in **England**, and not the devolved administrations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In Wales we are already developing proposals to further align university and college education through our post-compulsory education and training reforms. After the 2016 Diamond review we introduced a generous student support package and became the first country in Europe to introduce equivalent maintenance support across full-time and part-time study, putting us well ahead of our **English** counterparts in this area. Clearly, our education system and funding regime does not operate in isolation, and I will fully assess the implications for Wales of any proposals taken forward by the UK government, particularly in regards to university tuition fees. Any proposals for reform in **England** will inform, but not dictate, the choices made by the Welsh government.

Misty Williams, Minister for education, Welsh government

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NHS calls in Mumsnet to tackle nursing shortages

The Times, 4/6/2019: Tom Whipple, Science Editor | Chris Smyth, Health Editor

With more than 100,000 vacancies across the NHS it is turning to Mumsnet in an attempt to entice nurses back into the profession, as it struggles to deal with a recruitment crisis.

The marketing deal with the parenting website was revealed as part of the “Interim NHS People Plan”, in which the organisation acknowledged that it needed to improve working conditions if it was to retain and recruit staff.

NHS leaders welcomed the attempt to deal with the problem, but said that the plan was reliant on further cash for staff training in a spending review due in the autumn. Although shortages of doctors, including GPs and psychiatrists, are affecting patient care, health chiefs accept that a shortfall of 40,000 nurses in **England** is the most pressing problem after years in which thousands have quit, citing overwork.

There is frustration in some quarters that the plan aims only to stop things getting worse rather than closing the gap and admits shortages will continue for almost a decade. Figures showing that the shortfall would only be reduced to 38,800 in five years, revealed in a draft leaked to *The Times*, have been removed from the final version. Instead it promises only that training more nurses, hiring thousands from overseas and tempting staff back to the NHS will “keep pace with rising demand and make initial progress in bringing down substantive vacancy levels”, setting a target of halving them by 2028.

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### Worried about US healthcare giants? They're already here

Times 4/6/19 Ian Birrell

The response could not have been clearer when Woody Johnson, US ambassador to Britain, suggested that American firms would want access to the NHS in any post-Brexit trade deal. “The NHS is not for sale,” thundered the health secretary, Matt Hancock. “The NHS as a publicly run, publicly owned institution is part of our DNA,” added his predecessor, Jeremy Hunt, now foreign secretary. This was a predictable response as political rivals seized on the ambassador's “terrifying” comments, especially when both men are engaged in a leadership battle. But it is also untrue. Lucrative chunks of the NHS have already been handed to rapacious American healthcare giants with disastrous consequences. And this pair of posturing politicians have done little to thwart them.



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is part of our DNA," added his predecessor, Jeremy Hunt, now foreign secretary. This was a predictable response as political rivals seized on the ambassador's "terrifying" comments. But it is also untrue. Lucrative chunks of the NHS have already been handed to rapacious American healthcare giants with disastrous consequences. And this pair of posturing politicians have done little to thwart them.

Remember Winterbourne View, where the BBC exposed abuse of patients with autism and learning disabilities in a secure hospital unit eight years ago? The response was unequivocal: such people should not be held in these places since community care tends to be cheaper, kinder and more effective. Yet efforts to end such abusive detention failed. For as the NHS pulled out, private firms muscled in on contracts worth up to £14,000 a week. Many staff are still paid little more than minimum wage and there is no real accountability. More than 2,200 such patients remain trapped in assessment and treatment units and the proportion in privately run beds rose from a fifth to more than half in a decade. Acadia, a Tennessee healthcare firm, spent £13 billion on the Priory Group, which takes £720 million annually from taxpayers. Universal Health Services, another US firm, recently snapped up psychiatric services including Danshell, owner of a Durham hospital that just featured in another *Panorama* exposé of abuse. Its UK operations are run by Cygnet Health Care, which having tweeted it was "shocked and deeply saddened by the allegations" nonetheless boasts in its accounts of revenues from 220 NHS purchasing bodies and profits surging to £40.4 million. It is shameful that our fellow citizens can still be stuffed in places where they are subjected to solitary confinement, violent restraint, hatch feeding and forced sedation. This scandal offers frightening insight into wider failures in psychiatric services. It is taking place in secretive units — scores owned by American firms and funded by the state. The private sector is not solely to blame, But how much better if we could trust a health secretary to protect patients from foreign firms making profits from their misery.

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Inquiry into deaths at failed NHS trust

Times 7/6/19: Kaya Burgess

An investigation has begun into a failed NHS trust after it was reported that 150 deaths and 17,000 patient safety incidents were not properly scrutinised.

Stephen Hammond, the health minister, said yesterday that an independent inquiry would examine the running of Liverpool Community Health (LCH) NHS Trust between 2010, when it was formed, and 2014, including a series of "historical mortality reviews".

The trust was in operation until last year and served about 750,000 people. It was replaced by the Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, which is rated good by the Care Quality Commission. The Mersey Care trust said that it had conducted an initial review and found that for 150 deaths at its defunct predecessor the "standard of investigation" of 110 been unsatisfactory.

A Mersey Care spokesman said: "[Our] initial review uncovered 43,000 incidents, of which 17,000 are patient-safety related, which we believe require further scrutiny because of poor and inconsistent record-keeping, data management and gaps in processes relating to HR investigations."

A review last year led by Bill Kirkup found that the trust was dysfunctional from the outset and the management team was out of its depth. Dr Kirkup has now been asked to chair the new investigation commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care, to "draw upon new evidence" uncovered by the Mersey Care trust.

Referring to Dr Kirkup's 2018 review, the department added: "It described how overambitious cost improvement programmes as part of a bid for foundation trust status placed patient safety at risk, leading to serious lapses in care and widespread harm to patients. It concluded that a culture of bullying meant that staff were afraid to speak up and safety incidents were ignored or went unrecognised."

Four former LCH staff members face hearings over their fitness to practice at the Nursing and Midwifery Council which began last month.

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### **Scottish TV turn-off**

Times 8/6/19

The new BBC Scotland television channel had no viewers for 21 of its programmes on some days between February and June. It was launched in February with an annual budget of £32 million but has been criticised for being set up after pressure from the SNP. Evening shows that did not register a single viewer included the news bulletin *The Seven*.



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Councils sitting on billions in reserves while cutting back services

The Times, 10/6/2019: Gurpreet Narwan, Economics Correspondent | Krystina Shveda, Data Journalist

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English councils have amassed huge cash reserves while blaming budget cuts for reduced spending on services, official figures suggest. Local authorities, excluding police or fire and rescue authorities, were sitting on £21.8 billion of non-ringfenced reserves last year, £5 billion more than they had in 2017 and £11 billion more than they had at the start of the decade.

Spending on local services, including libraries, parks, bus services and bin collections, has fallen by about 21 per cent since 2010, when the government began slashing the central grant it gives to local authorities. Many councils have also been raising council tax bills. The Taxpayers' Alliance, which campaigns for lower tax, said that some authorities were making questionable decisions with their budgets that meant residents "paying more for less".

Some local authorities, particularly county councils with social care responsibilities, have struggled with chronic shortages and have been dipping into their reserves but others have fared better.

District councils, which benefit from business rates and provide less resource-intensive services such as leisure centres or bin collections that can be scaled back or made chargeable, have found their reserves swelling as a proportion of spending. Since 2010 they have grown their non-ringfenced reserves from 50 per cent of service expenditure to 130 per cent. By comparison the savings ratio for county councils has risen from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. This does not include spending on education and public health, which have ringfenced corresponding reserves.

Last year Coventry city council said it could no longer afford to provide free school buses for disabled children, yet it is holding £97.6 million in usable reserves, up 76 per cent on 2017. It is planning another £11 million of cuts.

Richard Watts, of the Local Government Association, said: "Reserves are vital to help councils manage growing financial risks to local services. They are also used to make long-term investments."

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### **Dentist closures leave thousands without access to NHS treatment**

The Times 12/6/2019, Fiona MacRae

One of the country's most densely populated cities does not have a single dentist able to take on NHS patients. Up to 20,000 residents of Portsmouth will be without a dentist when a chain of practices closes its doors next month.

With no surgeries accepting new adult NHS patients, the nearest practices are in Gosport, which is a ferry-ride away, or Havant, a half-hour drive away, according to the NHS website.

The BDA said that "years of underfunding and failed contracts have taken their toll", leaving practices struggling to recruit staff, and communities from Devon to Cumbria having difficulty getting access to dental care. Research by the BDA highlighted 13 towns and cities where no dental practices were registering new adult patients, including Plymouth and Barrow-in-Furness. It also calculated that more than a million new patients had tried and failed to find a surgery last year.

Colosseum Dental Group, which is owned by an investment company based in Switzerland, is closing three practices in Portsmouth next month. Estimates of the number of patients affected vary. Local sources have put the figure at 20,000 but NHS **England** suggested that it would be closer to 9,000.

Stephen Morgan, Labour MP for Portsmouth South, said that the situation raised questions over the use of private organisations to run public services.

Mick Armstrong, the BDA's chairman, said: "We are seeing practices struggling to remain sustainable as vacancies go unfilled and over a million patients are unable to secure an appointment. NHS dentistry remains the Cinderella service and this is the latest evidence that its future can no longer be guaranteed."

A spokesman for NHS **England** South East said: "There are more than 20 dental practices open in the Portsmouth area and patients at nine in ten dental surgeries will not be affected by these changes, while support is being offered for people to find alternative care where it is needed."

**Analysis:** More than a million new patients were turned away by NHS dentists last year, on top of 700,000 who could not get an appointment with their usual surgery. Some patients have spent years hunting for a dentist, others have given up and even pulled out their own teeth.

NHS dentistry gets funding for only half the population, and the profession is struggling to recruit and retain staff. Three quarters of practices had trouble filling dentist vacancies last year and six out of ten dentists say that they plan to leave the profession or cut back on their NHS work in the next five years.

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NHS-bug struck two years after warning

Times 10/6/19 David Brown



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The food safety watchdog was warned about the risks of sandwiches supplied to hospitals two years before a fatal outbreak of listeria last month. Three patients died in the northwest of England and three more became seriously unwell. Scientists linked the outbreak to chicken sandwiches from The Good Food Chain in Stone, Staffordshire. It voluntarily withdrew the sandwiches on May 25 but the link was not made public until last Friday. The Good Food Chain supplies 43 of the 135 NHS trusts in **England**. The outbreak was identified at North Country Cooked Meats in Salford, which supplies meat to the company.

Most NHS trusts missing cancer targets as waiting times soar

The Telegraph, 12/6/2019: Laura Donnelly, Health Editor

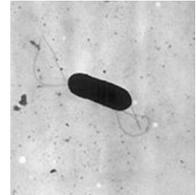
Almost two in three trusts are missing NHS cancer targets, amid warnings that patients are being put at risk as waiting times grow longer. The report by the Public Accounts Committee accuses health bodies of “a lack of curiosity” about the risks that patients would come to harm through, for example, the deterioration of a medical condition as result of increasingly long waiting times.

The report warns that a key target for cancer patients to receive treatment within two months has not been hit since 2013. Last November, just 38 per cent of trusts achieved the standard. Meanwhile, 44 per cent of trusts hit targets to carry out planned surgery within 18 weeks.

MPs expressed concern that NHS **England** has removed sanctions and penalties for failing this standard, with more than 4.2 million patients now on waiting lists. When waiting times are longer, patients may experience additional pain, anxiety and inconvenience. MPs said that although trusts could carry out reviews of individual cases, there was no national data collection. Trusts are only asked to review harm to those waiting at least a year for planned treatment, and findings are not reviewed across the country.

Meg Hillier, PAC chairman said: “It is unacceptable that the proportion of patients being treated within NHS waiting times standards is continuing to spiral downwards; NHS **England** and the Department of Health & Social Care must regain control. “As one charity told us, the wait for cancer testing is ‘agonising... it is essential that a definitive answer is given as soon as possible, to either provide peace of mind or to allow treatment to begin at the earliest stage.’

NHS **England** is currently carrying out a review of waiting times, which could see the 18 week target axed, along with the flagship four hour target for Accident & Emergency departments. Ms Hillier said: “NHS **England**’s review of waiting times is now more crucial than ever. However, this cannot be an opportunity for standards to slip, any changes must protect and improve patient outcomes.”



Papers on 'abuse' home held back

Times 12/6/19 Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

A regulator that suppressed a report raising concerns about a specialist hospital at the centre of an abuse scandal has refused to hand further documents to a parliamentary committee.

The Care Quality Commission was asked to provide further paperwork and emails relating to the unpublished inspection report to the joint committee on human rights, which takes evidence from its executives today. Ian Trenholm, chief executive of the CQC, refused and said that his staff were still trying to find all relevant documents for its own internal review.

The CQC, which regulates health and social care services in **England**, is under scrutiny over its inspections of Whorlton Hall, a care home in Co Durham, which closed last month after undercover footage in *Panorama* on BBC One appeared to show staff mocking and intimidating patients. Durham police arrested seven men and three women suspected of abuse and neglect who worked at the home.

An inspection team visited the home for adults with learning difficulties in 2015 and gave it a rating of "requires improvement", reporting concerns over risks to patients' safety and poor staff practices. The report was not published because of insufficient supporting evidence, the regulator said.

In a letter to *The Times*, the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group has called for units that detain patients for more than a year to be downgraded.

Criminals go free as system denied funds'

Times 22/6/19: Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Crimes are not being prosecuted because the justice system is starved of funds and at "risk of collapse", the judge in charge of the criminal courts says.

Sir Brian Leveson, on the eve of his retirement yesterday as the most senior criminal judge in **England** and

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Wales, said it was concerning "that citizens suffer wrongs and are not obtaining redress through the criminal courts". The judge, who is president of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, is the latest senior figure to claim that the justice system is underfunded. He told the BBC yesterday that without more funds it could collapse. Sir Brian also said that moves to ban shorter jail sentences would fail. David Gauke, the justice secretary, said in February that he wanted to abolish jail terms of less than six months in most cases. Sir Brian said that shorter sentences were needed for repeat offenders for whom every non-custodial option had already been tried. His comments echo those of Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, a former Supreme Court president, who said last month that the situation could "lead to a breakdown of the rule of law".



Routine use of emergency hospital beds

Times 22/6/19

Patients are routinely being cared for in emergency or temporary beds as hospitals struggle to cope with rising demand, according to British Medical Association research.

The BMA found through freedom of information requests that on March 3 there were 3,428 "escalation beds" — meant to be used only in emergencies or the winter — being used across all 134 acute trusts in **England**.

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS **England**, has said that although the NHS has been urged to provide more community care, in many cases hospitals are going to need more beds.

Rob Harwood, chairman of the BMA consultants committee, said: "Some hospitals are forced to designate their theatre recovery beds as 'escalation', resulting in elective surgical operations being cancelled as there is no space for those patients who need immediate care after their surgery. Most worryingly, the intense pressure on beds can result in patients being placed on beds in corridors or in bits of other facilities."

Dr Harwood said the BMA had been lobbying for up to 10,000 more beds and accompanying staff Jonathan Ashworth, shadow health secretary, said: "The use of escalation beds is another sign that hospitals are struggling to cope. Ministers should be ashamed that years of cuts to beds and to funding have led to some of the worst bed-occupancy rates in hospitals."

Councils cut social care by £700m more

Times 27/6/19: Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

Social care budgets will be cut by another £700 million in the next year as local authorities struggle to balance their books and more adults need help, council leaders have warned.

A survey found that directors of adult social care in **England** planned to reduce their spending by £699 million in 2019-20, taking the cut since 2010 to £7.7 billion. Many said the rising cost of supporting disabled adults of working age was their biggest pressure. In the past year, councils had to find places for 1,173 people whose care homes had closed, a lower number than in the previous year. However, the number of people who needed new care at home more than doubled, to 7,109.

Julie Ogle, president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, which conducted the survey, said: "Too many older and disabled people and their families still struggle without getting the help they need. Social workers, managers and councillors are having to make incredibly difficult decisions based on dwindling resources, which should not be allowed to happen in a modern, compassionate society"

Taxpayer to meet 47% of student debt

Times 28/6/19: Rosemary Bennett

Taxpayers will end up paying 47p of every pound borrowed by students this academic year, analysis suggests. The figure, a projection of what this year's students are likely to repay, is 2p in the pound above last year's and the highest on record. It will add to fears that after a vast expansion in student numbers too many graduates will not earn enough to repay their debts, forcing the taxpayer to pick up the bill. The figure is equivalent to a subsidy to universities of £7.4 billion a year.

Graduates begin paying back debts under the student loan scheme only on earnings above £25,725 and all outstanding debts are written off after 30 years. The recent Augar review into higher education funding recommended extending the repayment period to 40 years to ensure the taxpayer is landed with less outstanding debt. Students leave university with average debts of £50,000. It is estimated that fewer than 30 per cent of graduates will pay back their loans in full, meaning more than 70 per cent will benefit from some form of taxpayer contribution.

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The government has expressed concern that some courses offer particularly poor returns to students in terms of salaries. Creative arts graduates are the lowest paid. However, even within a subject group such as business studies salaries - six years after graduating can range - from £74,000 for Oxford graduates to £19,000 for graduates of the University - of Wales Trinity Saint David.

£1bn from council parking charges

Times 29/6/19: Hannah Mays

The RAC Foundation found that parking charges across **England** had doubled in the past decade. **English** councils have estimated a £913 million surplus from parking for 2019-20, made up of charges, resident's permits and penalties after running costs are deducted. Councils underestimated surpluses by 9 to 10 per cent over the past three financial years, suggesting that the net figure for this period could pass £1 billion. Westminster had the biggest estimated surplus at £72.1 million.

English politics:

Joint Select Human Rights Committee

20 June 2019: NHS England Commissioner questioned regarding Whorlton Hall and St Andrews

The Chair of the UK Parliament's Human Rights Committee, Harriet Harman MP, has written to the Chief Executive of NHS **England**, Simon Stevens, with questions about the roles and responsibilities of its Commissioners for St Andrews and Whorlton Hall, two institutions for people with learning disabilities and autism recently closed or put in special measures.

Inquiry: Detention of children and young people with learning disabilities and/or autism

The Care Quality Commission's Deputy Chief Inspector Paul Lelliot told the Committee that oversight of these institutions is a responsibility they share as a regulator with NHS **England**.

Letter from the Chair to NHS England: In the letter the Chair asks Simon Stevens:

To provide figures on how many people with learning disabilities and/or autism were placed by NHS **England** (either by NHS **England's** specialised commissioners or local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissioners) in Whorlton Hall and St. Andrew's Northampton Adolescents Service, in each of the five years to April 2019.

The total costs of those placements as above

What steps the Commissioners took to assure themselves that care at those institutions was safe and appropriate

Whether he agrees that NHS **England** shares responsibility for oversight of these institutions as per CQC's evidence.



27 June 2019: Commons Select Justice Committee

Government **lack of plan for prisons:** Committee writes to Justice Secretary

The Chair of the Justice Committee, Bob Neill MP, has today written to the Secretary of State, David Gauke, criticising the Government's lack of a plan for dealing with the prisons crisis and seeking more detail about its strategy.

Inquiry: Prison Population 2022: Planning for the future

In April, the Committee's major report found that the Government's approach to prisons was inefficient, ineffective and unsustainable in the medium or long-term. In order to address this, the Committee set out why there should be a presumption against sentences of six months or less and argued that the Ministry of Justice needs to focus on ensuring safety and decency in prisons is maintained, as well as improving rehabilitation of offenders when they leave prison. The Government's response to that report, published on 11 June, agreed with many of the issues raised but offered little in terms of action to deal with the multiple issues that prisons are currently facing.

In the letter to the Secretary of State, Chair Bob Neill expresses frustration at the lack of a plan and presses the Justice Secretary for answers to a number of questions relating to the Government's response to the report. These cover the prison estate, the high turnover of prison staff, rehabilitative programmes, resourcing of the Sentencing Council and a number of other areas.

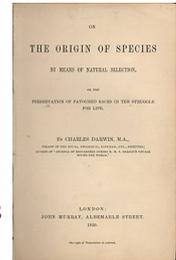
Chair's comments: Chair of the Justice Committee, Bob Neill MP, said: "From overcrowded, squalid and poorly maintained prisons to inadequate opportunities for rehabilitation, the Government's crisis

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management approach to jails has been failing for more than five years. Throwing money at such significant problems on an ad hoc basis is both unsustainable and a waste of taxpayers' money. Our report set out the need for a clear strategy and demonstrated how proper planned investment would reduce reoffending, save money and start to alleviate pressures on jails. So far we have not seen that from Government. It's response to our report contained a rehash of current initiatives that we already knew about. Without a strategy, we do not believe that the serious challenges can be addressed. That's why my letter to David Gauke presses this matter once again and I hope this time he is able to reassure us with greater detail and clarity."

England's history: 1 July 1858 English scientist Charles Darwin presented a paper to the Linnean Society in London, on his theory of the evolution of species and natural selection. "On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection" is the title of a journal article, comprising and resulting from the joint presentation of two scientific papers: On The Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type by Alfred Russel Wallace and an Extract from an unpublished Work on Species from Charles Darwin's Essay of 1844. The article also includes an Abstract of a Letter from Darwin to Asa Gray. The article was the first announcement of the Darwin–Wallace theory of evolution by natural selection; and appeared in print on 20 August 1858. The presentation of the papers spurred Darwin to write a condensed "abstract" of his "big book" on Natural Selection. This was published in November 1859 as *On the Origin of Species*.

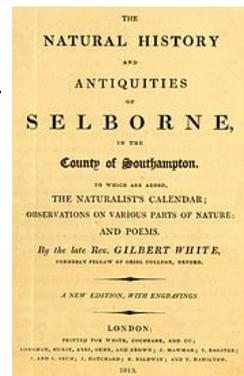


The papers were read to the Linnean Society of London on 1 July 1858, by the Secretary John Joseph Bennett. Neither author was present. Darwin was attending the funeral of his son, and Wallace was still in Borneo. The meeting was chaired by the President of the society, Thomas Bell, who had written up the description of Darwin's reptile specimens from the Beagle expedition.

About thirty were present, including two unnamed guests from overseas. Hooker later said there was "no semblance of a discussion", though "it was talked over with bated breath" at tea afterwards, and in his reminiscences many years later thought "the subject [was] too ominous for the old school to enter the lists before armouring." Darwin wrote to Wallace to explain what had occurred, enclosing a letter which Hooker wrote at Darwin's request. On 30 July Darwin began writing an "abstract" of his book on Natural Selection, planning a short paper in response to Hooker's urging to publish a scientific paper in the Linnean journal.

England's heroes/heroines: Reverend Gilbert White, English naturalist who wrote *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.

White was born on 18 July 1720 in his grandfather's vicarage at Selborne in Hampshire. He was educated at the Holy Ghost School and by a private tutor in Basingstoke before going to Oriel College, Oxford. He obtained his deacon's orders in 1746, being fully ordained in 1749, and subsequently held several curacies in Hampshire and Wiltshire, including Selborne's neighbouring parishes of Newton Valence and Farringdon, as well as Selborne itself on four separate occasions. After the death of his father in 1758, White moved back into the family home at The Wakes in Selborne, which he eventually inherited in 1763. In 1784 he became curate of Selborne for the fourth time, remaining so until his death. Having studied at the more prestigious Oriel, at the behest of his uncle, he was ineligible to be considered for the permanent living of Selborne, which was in the gift of Magdalen College.



Title page of White's *Natural History*, which he published late in life

White is regarded by many as England's first ecologist, and one of those who shaped the modern attitude of respect for nature. He said of the earthworm: Earthworms, though in appearance a small and despicable link in the chain of nature, yet, if lost, would make a lamentable chasm. [...] worms seem to be the great promoters of vegetation, which would proceed but lamely without them...

White and William Markwick collected records of the dates of emergence of more than 400 plant and animal species, White recording in Hampshire and Markwick in Sussex between 1768 and 1793. These data, summarised in *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* as the earliest and latest dates for each event over the 25-year period, are among the earliest examples of modern phenology.

American nature writer, Donald C. Peattie, writes in *The Road of a Naturalist* about White's contribution to the public interest in birds: "The bird census, now so widely promulgated by the Audubon Society, was

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the invention of Gilbert White; he was the original exponent, as far as I know, of the close seasonal observation of Nature, a branch of science known to the pedantic as phenology. He was the first to perceive the value in the study of migration (then a disputed fact) and of banding or ringing birds. No professional ornithologist ever did so much to widen interest in birds.

The book has been continuously in print since its first publication

English culture:

The cuckoos are a family of birds, Cuculidae, the sole taxon in the order Cuculiformes. The cuckoo family includes the common or European cuckoo, roadrunners, koels, malkohas, couas, coucals and anis. The subfamily Cuculinae are the brood-parasitic cuckoos of the Old World laying their eggs in the nests of other species. About 56 of the Old World species and 3 of the New World species (pheasant, pavonine, and striped) are obligate brood parasites, meaning that they only reproduce in this fashion. The best-known example is the European common cuckoo.

They tend to conform to the classic shape, with (usually) long tails, short legs, long narrow wings and an arboreal lifestyle. Cuckoos are generally medium-sized slender birds. They feed on insects, insect larvae and a variety of other animals, as well as fruit.

The shells of the eggs of brood-parasites are usually thick. They have two distinct layers with an outer chalky layer that is believed to provide resistance to cracking when the eggs are dropped in the host nest. The cuckoo egg hatches earlier than the host's, and the cuckoo chick grows faster; in most cases the chick evicts the eggs or young of the host species. The chick has no time to learn this behavior, so it must be an instinct passed on genetically. The chick encourages the host to keep pace with its high growth rate with its rapid begging call and the chick's open mouth which serves as a sign stimulus.

Since obligate brood parasites need to successfully trick their host in order for them to reproduce, they have evolved adaptations at several stages of breeding. However, there are high costs of parasitism on the host, leading to strong selections on host to recognize and reject parasitic eggs. The adaptations and counter-adaptations between host and parasites have led to a coevolution arms race.

The cuckoo family gets its English and scientific names from the call of the common cuckoo, which is also familiar from cuckoo clocks. Cuckoos have played a role in human culture for thousands of years, appearing in Greek mythology as sacred to the goddess Hera.

In England, William Shakespeare alludes to the common cuckoo's association with spring, and with cuckoldry, in the courtly springtime song in his play *Love's Labours Lost*.

Everyone knows that the unmistakable sound of the Cuckoo is a sure sign that spring has arrived. The main objective for reciting 'Cuckoo, cuckoo, what do you do' was to teach children to appreciate and understand the seasonal migration habits of the cuckoo.

Cuckoo, cuckoo, what do you do?

In April I open my bill;

In May I sing all day;

In June I change my tune;

In July away I fly;

In August away I must.

<http://www.rhymes.org.uk/a/19-cuckoo-cuckoo-what-do-you-do.htm>



Promotion: English produce

We love broad beans simply boiled, buttered and served with the Sunday roast. But they're much more versatile than that and seem to have a particular affinity for dishes using pork-based meats such as bacon, pancetta and chorizo.

History: Broad beans are thought to have originated in the Mediterranean. Archaeological findings at Iron Age and Bronze Age settlements in various parts of Europe show that they have been an important staple food for millennia. Today broad beans grow in temperate regions across the globe. They are known as fava beans in America where they haven't reached the same level of popularity as in Europe. They are enjoyed across northern China and are crucial to Egyptian cuisine as a key ingredient in the national dish, Ful medames, and in falafels.

Biology: Broad beans are a type of vetch with the Latin name *Vicia faba*. Vetches, which include peas and alfalfa, are nitrogen fixing plants that enrich the soil in which they are planted.



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Commonly cultivated broad beans mainly fall into two classes. Longpod beans feature eight beans per pod and are more durable to different climatic conditions. Windsor varieties have four or five beans per pod and are considered by some to have a finer flavour.

Barfoots: West Sussex-based Barfoots grows broadbeans and peas using a combination of traditional farming techniques and with ultra modern cropping methods.

Swaythorpe: Swaythorpe Growers, who are based at Southburn, near Driffield,

Recipe: Stewed rabbit with broad beans

By Barney Desmazery

PREP: 20 MINS COOK: 3 HRS, 30 MINS: SERVES 4

Use this rich game meat in a delicious light casserole with podded beans, bacon, light ale and thyme

Ingredients:



2 tbsps vegetable oil	1 whole rabbit, cut into 6 pieces (get your butcher to do this)
200g smoked bacon lardons	3 carrots, cut into small pieces
2 onions, cut into small pieces	3 celery sticks, cut into small pieces
2 tbsps plain flour	300ml light ale
2 bay leaves	½ bunch thyme, a few sprigs reserved to garnish
700ml chicken stock (fresh if possible)	500g podded and peeled fresh broad bean (or use frozen)

Method: Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole dish. Brown the rabbit in batches, then transfer to a plate. Add the bacon and fry until crisp. Reduce the heat to low, throw in the vegetables and sweat for 15 mins until soft but not brown. Add the flour and cook for a few mins.

Increase the heat again, pour in the ale and boil hard, scraping the base of the dish, until well reduced. Return the rabbit to the dish with the herbs, stock and some seasoning. Cover and very gently simmer on the hob for 2 hrs or until the rabbit is really tender and the sauce thickened. Top up with water occasionally, if needed.

Stir the broad beans through the stew 5 mins before serving.

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/3086683/stewed-rabbit-with-broad-beans>

In November 2014 the BBC published the results of a COMRES poll which showed that then 53% of the English wanted our own English Parliament. ('Support' for English devolution - BBC poll 5 November 2014 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-29880995>), <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-44306737>. The June 2018 poll was conducted for the BBC's The English Question project and is the largest and most comprehensive of its kind. Respondents were asked to complete a detailed online questionnaire on identity and belonging.

Eight out of 10 people in England identify strongly as English but pride varies by age. YouGov surveyed 20,081 people and found 72% of over-65s are proud to be English, compared with 45% of 18-24s. Half of those surveyed think England was better in the past, with one in six believing its best days lie ahead. Humour, tradition and good manners are the characteristics most associated with being English. 57% of those who identify themselves as English want an English Parliament.

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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