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Campaign for an English Parliament

Think of England Number 115: November 2021



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Number 115 November 2021

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RECOMMENDED READING: the decline of an English village by Robin Page. *Publisher: Quiller Publishing Ltd . ISBN: 9781846893094*



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: Michael Gove, born and educated in Scotland, MP for an English constituency and Minister for an English Department, may not mind the SNP taking credit for what our taxes fund Scotland But I do.



England's waterways and environment are being polluted by sewage because of the overpopulation imposed upon us by the UK government. Continued building over agricultural land and linking that building into sewers designed for a population millions fewer mean that the overflow, particularly during flooding events, precipitated by the loss of natural soakaways, is released into our rivers and coasts poisoning our flora and fauna.

Interesting that the author of the article on local authority funding has spotted that the government appears not to understand that it is they that mainly fund social care.

The graduate loan debt burden is greatest on students from England but, of course, the Times does not care to acknowledge this discrimination.

Moreover the burden on unpaid loans falls mostly on the English tax payer when university courses do not fit graduates for the high paying jobs they were promised. Moreover those of the 50% guaranteed university places that fail to complete their courses are still liable. In addition there are those graduates that move abroad and cannot be forced to repay. Moreover the interest continues to accrue until the graduate can pay the loan.

As I read the budget's leveling up agenda England's local authorities will have to compete for such funding but it will be freely given to the rest of the UK. Nothing changes.

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Campaigning for England: Constitutional Affairs

Sturgeon under fire as Scotland spends three times more on rail services than England

Telegraph: Oliver Gill, CHIEF business correspondent 23 September

SNP accused of wasting taxpayers' money as spending dwarfs cost of subsidy in England for each passenger carried

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of wasting taxpayers' money after figures showed that Scotland is spending three times as much as England on keeping railway services running during Covid.

By contrast, in Westminster operators have been transferred onto less lucrative terms to try to limit the burden on taxpayers.



Michael Gove: I don't mind SNP taking credit for UK-funded projects

Kieran Andrews, Scottish Political Editor Friday October 22, The Times

Michael Gove has said he is relaxed about the SNP taking credit for Scottish infrastructure projects that are paid for by the UK Treasury and seen as key to strengthening the Union.

It is expected that Scottish projects through the UK government's new levelling-up fund will be awarded cash by Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, at the forthcoming spending review.

"It doesn't matter," Gove told a briefing with the Scottish Parliamentary Journalists Association when asked about the possibility of SNP ministers claiming credit for Treasury money. "I am more than happy for the Scottish government ministers to take the credit for good things that happen in Scotland. I just want good things to happen in Scotland.

Despite the lack of Holyrood involvement in the scheme, he argued that it was being set up to help the Scottish government deliver on its priorities. Funding to improve that route and others like it would be on top of the block grant that goes to Holyrood and would not result in any loss of funding to the Scottish government, Gove said.

Current English Affairs: Health and Welfare, Environment, local government, taxing and funding,

Ministers mull council tax rise to plug social care black hole: Steven Swinford, Political Editor | Chris Smyth, Whitehall Editor Henry Zeffman, The Times, October 04

Council tax could be increased to pay for social care after Rishi Sunak refused to rule out more tax rises but the prime minister refused yesterday to rule out further tax rises.

Although councils have been promised £5.4 billion over three years from the new "health and care levy" introduced last month, almost half of this will go to capping the lifetime amount people must pay for care at £86,000. Councils fear the rest will be swallowed up by a pledge to increase the fees local authorities pay to care homes in order to reduce costs for the middle classes, who currently subsidise those who do not pay for themselves. Council chiefs argue that without extra cash from Whitehall for 2022-23, they will be forced to either increase council tax or see social care worsen.

Councils have been warned that they need an extra £2.6 billion a year to sustain present levels of social care, and have said that in the absence of central government funding council tax will have to increase by 9 per cent next year to plug the gap.

Ministers are considering proposals to allow councils to increase the social care element of council tax, which is 3 per cent at present, without the need for a local referendum. They are also looking at the alternative option of a direct cash injection in the spending review, accepting that social care cannot be allowed to get worse next year after Johnson's promise to fix it.

Dropping the referendum requirement would almost certainly lead to big council tax rises as town halls say the government's national insurance rise will do little to improve the quality of social care next year. However, many councils dislike the idea of lifting the referendum requirement, fearing that voters will blame them whichever choice they make. Lifting the referendum requirement only for the social care precept is considered more politically saleable with many voters accepting that elderly care needs more money in the wake of the pandemic.

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NHS bosses face sack for failing to cut waits: Javid will seize control of poor hospitals

Chris Smyth, Whitehall Editor | Oliver Wright, Policy Editor, The Times, 5 Oct 2021
Hospital managers who fail to clear mounting NHS backlogs will be sacked under government plans for reform, *The Times* understands. Business people and other outsiders will be encouraged to take jobs running hospitals as Javid argues that good leadership is key to improving care.



He is under pressure from Downing Street and the Treasury to produce results by cutting waiting times for routine treatments following last month's £36 billion spending plan for health and social care.

The abolition of the target that people in A&E must be seen within four hours will also be backed by Javid as he seeks performance measures that will boost efficiency. There are 5.6 million patients on NHS England waiting lists. Javid has told health service leaders that the NHS needs to deal with under-performing hospitals to bring down post-pandemic waiting times.

He is said to be frustrated that ministers lack the means by which to hold failing leadership to account, with hospitals enjoying considerable local autonomy. He wants the power to replace the whole leadership team in failing hospitals or to have them taken over by high-performing neighbours.

The plans are likely to divide NHS bosses, many of whom privately acknowledge enduring failure in many areas of the country. However, they believe that this is as much to do with poor organisational structures and the difficulty of attracting the best staff to remote areas as leadership failure.

They are also likely to resist attempts to curtail the independence of local hospitals, fearing it would lead to unresponsive, top-down management.

Make single rooms the norm in hospital, Professor Stephen Powis urges

Kat Lay, Health Editor Wednesday October 20 2021, 12.01am, The Times

Single rooms should become the default option in English NHS hospitals, the national medical director has said. Professor Stephen Powis told MPs on the health and social care select committee: "Personally, I feel coming out of the pandemic one of the things we need to think really hard about is the number of single beds that we have. Powis also called for "a sensible discussion about the level of headroom that there is within the NHS, to ensure that either during the winter, when emergency services run hot, we don't have elective care impacted, or for unusual events such as the pandemic that we have got that reserve in place". The spending review will also set the budget for Health Education England, which oversees medical training.

Sajid Javid chairs two meetings each morning to assess coronavirus data and focus on pressures facing the NHS

Caroline Wheeler Political Editor, Sunday October 24 2021, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

Javid faces an unenviable task this winter: containing the virus while making inroads into hospital lists that groan with 5.7 million people waiting for treatment. To grapple with the challenge, he chairs two meetings each morning. The first pores over coronavirus data, the second focuses on the winter pressures facing the NHS. "No one wants to spook the horses," a source close to the prime minister said. Javid and Johnson are also concerned about the long-term toll that the pandemic has taken on the NHS. They believe that waiting lists, which the health secretary has warned could hit 13 million, will be a battleground at the next election.

Within a few weeks Javid is expected to announce his blueprint to ease pressure on the NHS. The measures will include diagnostic centres, where tests can be carried out in venues such as shopping centres and football stadiums. The move comes after claims that half of those on the waiting list are there for tests.

The money for these clinics, which is in addition to the 40 in operation, is expected to be announced in the budget. Javid will also create more hubs to fast-track routine operations, such as cataract removal and hip and knee operations. A source close to Javid said he was frustrated that he had tried to help doctors but no proposal was "ever enough" despite him securing funding that is the envy of other Whitehall departments.

Nadhim Zahawi, the education secretary, is already under fire over claims that his department is likely to be one of the hardest hit with "minimal" additional funding to help children to catch up after the pandemic. It is understood that the Department for Education did not submit a formal application for catch-up funding, a move met with "incredulity" by Downing Street and the Treasury.

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Over half England's rivers polluted with sewage

Nina Lloyd | Rhys Blakely, Science Correspondent, The Times, October 04 2021

More than half of England's big rivers are polluted with sewage pumped out by water companies, prompting calls for new laws to properly regulate drainage. About 53 per cent of waterways across the country are in poor condition and none have good chemical status, according to figures released by the Rivers Trust, a charity.

Water UK, which represents the country's major water companies conceded that investments had failed to increase the number of waterways achieving a "good" ecological status since 2009. The proportion has stalled at about 14 per cent, despite the government aiming to reach 75 per cent by 2027.

It called for a new system to support "the safe recreational use of inland waters in every region of England", which it said would have to include the government, wild swimming advocates and representatives of farmers and landowners.

Just one stretch of English river, the Wharfe at Ilkley, Yorkshire, has been given designated bathing water status, after an intensive campaign to clean it up. This is partly because water companies are allowed to discharge raw and partially untreated sewage into rivers and seas. Firms argue that the system allows them to release excess water in the event of a storm to stop homes and buildings being flooded.

As part of the flagship environment bill, the government is set to unveil new rules that require companies to publish data on how storm overflows are being safely used. Critics say the plans do not go far enough. In July Southern Water was fined a record £90 million for deliberately dumping billions of litres of waste into seas across sites in Kent, West Sussex and Hampshire. Among the affected areas were Whistable, Herne Bay and the Solent, much of which has protected environmental status. Thames Water was fined £20 million in 2017 for discharging 1.9 billion litres of untreated sewage into the Thames.

The report defended the industry's record since privatisation, arguing that emissions of pollutants, including ammonia, phosphates and toxic metals such as mercury, had fallen.

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of the Rivers Trust, said: "There are some really serious offences you get for cruelty to animals, but you can quite often pollute a river, killing thousands of invertebrates and lots of fish, and birds, and bats, and everything else that relies on the ecosystem of the river, and get away, mainly without any prosecution at all, but perhaps a small fine which you can easily absorb into your operation costs and carry on." "It is vital that the government supports this work by stopping the problem from becoming worse. That means ending the practice of developers adding more and more connections into sewers, even when they are already close to being overloaded, and promoting natural drainage schemes that reduce torrents of storm water entering sewers."



Sewage analysis dishes the dirt on illegal river spills

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent, The Times, October 11 2021

The Environment Agency is failing to detect thousands of illegal spills of sewage into rivers, a report suggests. The analysis looked at incidents where sewage treatment works (STWs) released untreated waste from their storm tanks into waterways. This is only supposed to happen when a treatment plant is in danger of being overwhelmed, typically by heavy rain, to avoid the system backing up in homes.

The report indicates, however, that thousands of spills happen before those conditions are met, in breach of Environment Agency permits. The new analysis, however, uncovered 735 apparent breaches in 3 years at 13 Thames Water STWs. The figures suggest that 95 per cent of these potentially illegal spills of raw sewage were not being recorded even though data that would expose them is available.

The Mogden sewage works, which serves west London, dumped a billion litres of a blend of raw sewage and rainwater on two days last year. A sewage works at Stanton Harcourt, six miles from Oxford, appears to have spilt a blend of sewage and water almost continuously between October 2019 and March last year. The analysis also suggests that the Environment Agency missed the opportunity to avert a spill that polluted the River Thame, a tributary of the Thames, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in 2013. Part of the problem involved the Aylesbury STW failing to treat up to half the incoming flow of effluent, which was instead released into the river.

STWs must treat a minimum volume of incoming waste before they are allowed to spill untreated sewage

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into a river. The data gives a good indication of when sewage works are spilling in breach of permits but that without examining the detailed data the Environment Agency would not identify suspicious activity.

In local government world, it's easy for reforms to make things worse

Paul Johnson Monday October 11 2021, 12.01am, The Times

England may be one of the most fiscally centralised countries in the developed world, but local government still matters. English councils have budgets in excess of £50 billion. Our political leaders seem to forget it all too easily. The prime minister's statement about reforms to social care funding did not even mention local councils. Yet it is they, not central government, that are responsible for providing, funding and administering most social care.

Future challenges may be coming to terms with the last decade during which councils' spending per person on services has been cut by a quarter. The medium-term challenges look tough indeed. First and foremost, demand for both adult and children's social care is growing at 2 per cent a year or more. Council tax will have to rise, and rise substantially, just to prevent services from deteriorating.

There are also deeper structural problems. Reliance on council tax also benefits councils with more expensive properties. More than half of all properties in the northeast are in band A, the lowest band for council tax. That is true of only 10 per cent in London and the southeast. Each 1 per cent rise in council tax raises 30 per cent more revenue for the most affluent councils than it does for the most deprived. Both government funding decisions over the past decade and the structure of council tax have worked against "levelling up".

Then there's the detail of how money is allocated to particular councils. Despite recent movements in the other direction, there is still a lot of redistribution that goes on to ensure that areas with greater need get a bigger share of the pot. There are formulae for working out who gets how much. The amount of money a council gets depends not on how many people currently live there, but on how many people lived there eight years ago. The population aged 80 or more, which really matters for determining social care needs, has dropped by 13 per cent in Barking and Dagenham and increased by 35 per cent in Hart, Hampshire. Funding does not recognise these changes.

The "fair funding" review, aimed at sorting out this mess, was launched fully six years ago. We were supposed to have a new system in place by April 2019. We still await any decisions. In the meantime council funding allocations become increasingly arbitrary.

Finally, there's social care reform. There is, though, a better than even chance that the funding that's been allocated won't be enough to achieve all this. If the money isn't enough then councils will probably do the only thing open to them: make the care needs assessment even more stringent. In other words, do even more to remove care from any but those with the most serious need. That's already been the biggest effect of funding constraint: the number of older adults receiving free social care services over the last decade has plummeted.



Changes to the way graduates have to pay back their debt could be a big shock

Imogen Tew: Sunday October 24 2021, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

The Treasury is understood to be considering a shake-up that would mean graduates start repaying their debt earlier and make repayments for longer. This could cost some students an extra £50,000.

Under today's system a typical student will rack up £45,000 worth of tuition and maintenance loans during a three-year university course. They start repaying once they earn more than £27,295 and continue making payments for 30 years after graduation. They pay 9 per cent of everything they earn above that threshold. A typical graduate can expect to repay £46,840 before the debt is wiped after 30 years; £1,840 more than they borrowed but not the total due, which includes interest.

The government is concerned that only 22 per cent of students will ever repay their loans in full. Only 53 per cent of the total amount of student debt will ever be repaid, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. So the Treasury is weighing up the proposals made by the government's Augar review into the funding of post-school education, published in 2019. Key recommendations were to extend the loan term to 40

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years and to lower the earnings level at which loans start being repaid.

Augar suggested that a suitable repayment point could be when a graduate began earning more than the average non-graduate, ie when they theoretically start benefiting financially from having a degree. Augar predicted that by 2021 the threshold would be reduced to £25,000. If the term was extended to 40 years, the typical graduate's overall bill would then be £101,001, according to the investment manager AJ Bell — £54,000 more than under the present system.

Most experts agree that this double-whammy is unlikely, though. All calculations assume that the graduate's initial salary is £24,000 and increases 3 per cent a year for 30 years, with additional £5,000 pay rises five, ten and 15 years after graduating. They also assume that the repayment threshold increases 2 per cent year with inflation and that 3 per cent interest is charged on the loan. If the threshold were lowered to £25,000, but the 30-year repayment term remained, a graduate would repay a total of £54,742 — almost £8,000 more than under today's system. If the threshold were lowered to £22,000, a graduate would repay £65,948 over the 30-year term, and over a 40-year term a graduate would repay the whole loan and more than the same amount again in interest — a total of £97,294. "This should be a huge concern to anyone with student debt or ambitions to attend university," said Kevin Doran, the chief investment officer at AJ Bell.

One of the biggest worries for students is the interest on their loans, which is applied the minute you take the loan out. It starts at 4.1 per cent then varies according to your salary once you start work. If your earnings are below the repayment threshold of £27,295 your loan accrues interest at a rate tied to the retail prices index (RPI). Once you earn enough to start paying the loan back the rate increases according to salary until it hits a maximum rate of RPI plus 3 percentage points (so 4.5 per cent this year) once you earn £49,130.

Despite students' worries, for most graduates the interest rate on their student loan is irrelevant because they will never pay off the amount they originally borrow. The interest they accrue will be written off after 30 years. But if they have to start repaying earlier, and pay for longer, more graduates will repay their initial borrowing and start making inroads into the interest. Therefore, the steeper the rate of interest, the more they will have to pay back over 40 years. That's why the amount they repay could be more than double the amount borrowed in the worst-case scenario.

Other recommendations from the Augar review included bringing back maintenance grants for students from low-income families and reducing yearly tuition fees from £9,250 to £7,500.



Budget 2021 highlights: a summary of the key points (as they affect England)

Times Business Staff: Thursday October 28 2021, 5.30am, The Times

Education and skills: Confirmed an additional £4.7 billion by 2024-25 for the core schools budget in England, over and above the settlement for schools in 2022-23. There will also be £2.6 billion to create 30,000 new school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and £1.8 billion of additional money for education recovery in addition to the £1.4 billion announced in June. There was also a fund of £560 million to improve adult numeracy skills in England. Apprenticeship funding in England increases to £2.7 billion in 2024-25.

Business rates: Retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors in England get a 50 per cent discount on business rates. This was capped at £110,000 per business. The government said it would reduce the burden of business rates in England by £7 billion over the next five years. To further help businesses in England at a time of high inflation, the government is freezing the business rates multiplier for a further year, a tax cut worth £4.6 billion over five years. There was a commitment to modernise the business rates system by more frequent revaluations every 3 years and new investment incentives in England totalling almost £750 million, including tax relief for eligible green investments and a new 'business rates improvement relief'.

Levelling up: Devolved administrations will be given the "largest block grants" since 1998, with an increase to Scottish government funding in each year by an average of £4.6 billion, £2.5 billion for the Welsh government, and £1.6 billion for the Northern Ireland Executive. The chancellor also allocated the first round of bids from the levelling up fund, noting it would be £1.7 billion to "invest in the infrastructure of

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everyday life in over 100 local areas". It includes £170 million in Scotland, £120 million in Wales, and £50 million in Northern Ireland.

Housing: Confirmed investment of £11.5 billion in the Affordable Homes Programme in England from 2021-26 to help build up to 180,000 new affordable homes. There was also £1.8 billion to bring 1,500 hectares of brownfield land into use.

Transport: £6.9 billion for transport. This includes a £1.5 billion increase in funds to improve rail, tram, bus and cycle networks in the big city regions in England, taking it to £5.7 billion. Plus a further £1.2bn of new funding for bus services outside of London. £2.6 billion had been committed via a "long-term pipeline" for more than 50 local road upgrades while more than £5 billion is being committed to local roads maintenance. The chancellor said funding for buses, cycling and walking totalled more than £5 billion.

Culture, sport and communities: To support theatres, orchestras, museums and galleries to recover from Covid, the tax reliefs, worth almost £250 million, for all those sectors will from today until April 2023 be doubled and won't return to the normal rate until April 2024. There was £205 million to fund 8,000 sports pitches and another £560 million was allocated for youth services over the next three years, enough to fund up to 300 youth clubs in England. The chancellor also announced £639 million of resource funding a year by 2024-25 as part of the government's commitment to end rough sleeping in England, an 85 per cent cash increase compared to 2019-20.

Courts: An extra £2.2 billion has been announced for courts, prisons and probation services, including £500,000 to reduce backlogs at the courts.

Governing England:

UK Statutory Instruments

The Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) and Independent School Standards (Amendment) Regulations 2021 No. 1124

The Local Government (Assistants for Political Groups) (Remuneration) (England) Order 2021 No. 1122

The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (England) Order 2021 No. 1101

Government Bills affecting England

Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Ballot Bill)

Report stage: Originated in the House of Commons: Last updated: 28 October 2021 at 12:11

Long title: A Bill to extend the duty to provide careers guidance in schools.

Local Government (Disqualification) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Ballot Bill)

Committee stage: Originated in the House of Commons, Last updated: 25 October 2021

Long title: A Bill to make provision about the grounds on which a person is disqualified from being elected to, or holding, certain positions in local government in England.

Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill : Government Bill

1st reading: Originated in the House of Lords, Last updated: 22 October 2021

Long title: A Bill to make provision about the rent payable under long leases of dwellings;

Health and Social Care Levy Act 2021: Government Bill

Granted Royal Assent: Originated in the House of Commons, Last updated: 21 October 2021

Long title: A Bill to make provision imposing a tax (to be known as the health and social care levy), the proceeds of which are payable to the Secretary of State towards the cost of health care and social care, on amounts in respect of which national insurance contributions are, or would be if no restriction by reference to pensionable age were applicable, payable.

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill: Government Bill

Report stage: Originated in the House of Commons, Last updated: 4 October 2021

Long title: A Bill to make provision in relation to freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education institutions and in students' unions.

Education (Assemblies) Bill :Private Members' Bill (Starting in the House of Lords)

Originated in the House of Lords, Last updated: 30 September 2021



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Long title: A Bill to amend the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to make provision regarding assemblies at state schools without a designated religious character in England; to repeal the requirement for those schools to hold collective worship.

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill; Government Bill

Originated in the House of Lords, Last updated: 1 October 2021 at 17:39

A Bill to make provision about local skills improvement plans; to make provision relating to further education; to make provision about functions of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and relating to technical education qualifications; to make provision about student finance and fees; to make provision about assessments by the Office for Students; to make provision about the funding of certain post-16 education or training providers.

Government Committees

Health and Social Care Committee: Dementia support requires greater funding from health and care levy:

29 October 2021: The Committee's report into dementia care criticises the Government plans for the health and care levy. In the Committee's view, the levy provides insufficient funding for social care over the next three years and fails to spell out how the sector will benefit from the levy after that.

The inquiry findings: During its inquiry the Committee heard evidence that currently 200,000 people with moderate and severe dementia in England do not get any kind of funded or professional support. The number of older people living with dementia in England will increase to around 1.35 million by 2040 and the total cost of dementia care is projected to reach £80.4 billion by 2040, up from £29.5 billion in 2019 when nearly half of this spending went on social care (45.8%).

The report key recommendations: The Committee is disappointed the Government has not provided greater funding for social care in the immediate future. It also urges Ministers to accept its recommendation from a previous report for a £7 annual billion increase in funding for social care by 2023-24 as a starting point. The Committee also recommends that the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and Improvement use the White Paper to develop clear guidance on the care and support those living with dementia and their carers should expect to receive, from diagnosis through to lifelong post-diagnostic support. The report concludes that the Government's Health and Care Bill must consider the vital role of unpaid carers in supporting people with dementia and give them the opportunity to contribute to any plans for reform.

Chair's comment: The Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, said: "People living with dementia face catastrophic costs for social care but even though the new levy is welcome, their families will continue to remain unprotected until 2023 at the earliest.

"The extra funding announced in the Budget for local authorities is welcome but it's not clear how much will be set aside to support the growing costs of providing social care.

"Fundamental reform of the social care system must be tackled by the Government in its promised White Paper and until we see warm words turned into action, families living with dementia will continue to face an unbearable situation."



Justice Committee: The Committee takes evidence on safety and wellbeing of women in prison:

19 October 2021: **Purpose of the session:** Questions will focus on a range of issues relating to the safety and wellbeing of women in prisons including measures to reduce self-harm and deaths in custody. The Committee will also investigate what work is being carried out to prevent further deaths of babies in custody – the Prison and Probation Ombudsman having recently published its report into the death of baby A at HMP Bronzefield. Before that, the Committee will examine the quality of support given to women when they leave prison when the take evidence from representatives of charities The Nelson Trust and Changing Lives. It will examine what measures are being taken to improve access to accommodation upon release and what barriers to effective resettlement remain. It will also look at the impact of the Ministry of Justice's new probation model in ensuring continuity of care and reducing reoffending.

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England's hero: William Hogarth FRSA 10 November 1697 – 26 October 1764 was an English painter, printmaker, pictorial satirist, social critic, and editorial cartoonist. His work ranges from realistic portraiture to comic strip-like series of pictures called "modern moral subjects", and he is perhaps best known for his series *A Harlot's Progress*, *A Rake's Progress* and *Marriage A-la-Mode*. Knowledge of his work is so pervasive that satirical political illustrations in this style are often referred to as "Hogarthian".

He was born in London and was apprenticed to an engraver, but did not complete the apprenticeship. His father underwent periods of mixed fortune, and was at one time imprisoned in lieu of outstanding debts, an event that is thought to have informed William's paintings and prints with a hard edge. Young Hogarth also took a lively interest in the street life of the metropolis and the London fairs, and amused himself by sketching the characters he saw.

Hogarth's works are mostly of the first rank of realistic portraiture. They became widely popular and mass-produced via prints in his lifetime, and he was by far the most significant English artist of his generation. By April 1720, Hogarth was an engraver in his own right; at first engraving coats of arms, shop bills, and designing plates for booksellers.

In 1731, Hogarth completed the earliest of his series of moral works, a body of work that led to significant recognition. The collection of six scenes was entitled *A Harlot's Progress* and appeared first as paintings (destroyed in the fire at Fonthill House in 1755) before being published as engravings. It depicts the fate of a country girl who begins prostituting – the six scenes are chronological, starting with a meeting with a bawd and ending with a funeral ceremony that follows the character's death from venereal disease. The series was an immediate success and was followed by the sequel *A Rake's Progress*. This consisted of eight pictures that depicted the reckless life of Tom Rakewell, the son of a rich merchant, who spends all of his money on luxurious living, services from prostitutes, and gambling – the character's life ultimately ends in Bethlem Royal Hospital. The oil paintings of *A Rake's Progress* (1733–34) are displayed in the gallery room at Sir John Soane's Museum, London, UK.

When the success of these series resulted in numerous pirated reproductions by unscrupulous print-sellers, Hogarth lobbied in parliament for greater legal control over the reproduction of his and other artists' work. The result was the Engravers' Copyright Act (known as 'Hogarth's Act'), which became law on 25 June 1735 and was the first copyright law to deal with visual works as well as the first to recognise the authorial rights of an individual artist. Further moralizing art included works that followed animal cruelty leading to murder.



Self-Portrait by Hogarth, ca. 1735,

England's history: Stormy weather

The rain 251 years ago was second wettest November on record in England and Wales, and the cause of serious flooding. Gloucestershire was hit hard, as *The Gloucester Journal* wrote: "In several villages the people who were confined to their upper rooms were ready to perish for want of food and firing, and great numbers are now very ill from colds caught by the dampness of their houses. In short, such a general scene of distress was never known before." Worcester appeared like an island in a sea of water, and in Tewkesbury boats were used to rescue people from their bedroom windows on the top floor of their homes. "The flood was occasioned by a prodigious fall of snow which was succeeded by a heavy rain, that continued for three days and three nights," the historian William Dyde wrote in 1790.

The floods affected Shrewsbury, Lincoln, Coventry and Norwich. Earlier that month there were serious floods in the northeast. The bridge at Alnwick in Northumberland collapsed, and Sunderland was under water.



English culture: The **Lord Mayor's Show** is one of the best-known annual events in London as well as one of the longest-established, dating back to the 16th century. A new lord mayor is appointed

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every year, and the public parade that takes place as his or her inauguration ceremony reflects that this was once one of the most prominent offices in England.

The 'Lord Mayor' after whom the show is named is the Lord Mayor of the City of London, a city and ceremonial county within Greater London and the historic centre of the wider metropolis, distinct from the position of Mayor of London (a role which has existed only since 2000). The Lord Mayor's Show is centred on a street parade, which in its modern form is a light-hearted combination of traditional English pageantry and elements of carnival. On the day after being sworn in, the Lord Mayor and several others participate in a procession from Guildhall, via Mansion House and St Paul's Cathedral, in the heart of the City of London, to the Royal Courts of Justice on the edge of the City of Westminster, where the new Lord Mayor swears allegiance to the Crown. ,



The Company of Pikemen and Musketiers of the Honourable Artillery Company leaving the Royal Courts of Justice

The office of Lord Mayor dates from 1189, and it was a requirement of the charter establishing it that the mayor travelled to the royal enclave at Westminster to present himself to the monarch's representatives, the senior judges as Barons of the Exchequer, to take an oath of loyalty to the Sovereign upon beginning his term. Originally, this journey was mostly made by barge on the River Thames, the usual method of transport for this route in those days. The river transport for the Lord Mayor's Show gave rise to the word "float" when used in the context of parades.

By the 16th century the "show" was firmly established as a major entertainment for Londoners. It occurred annually on 29 October but in 1751, the Lord Mayor's Show was moved to 9 November on adoption of the Gregorian calendar. In 1959 the date was changed to the second Saturday in November. The Lord Mayor's Show has regularly been held on the scheduled day but in 1852 it made way for Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington's funeral. The show was uninterrupted by war but in 2020 the Show was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Otherwise the Lord Mayor has been making that journey every year surviving plague and fire and countless wars and insurrections. On more than one occasion, floats have been used as puns on the Lord Mayor's name; in 1616 John Leman had a lemon tree in the procession, while the following year William Cockayne had an artificial cock crowing and flapping its wings. More recently, Sir Murray Fox in 1974 had a large model of a fox in the procession.

In 1757 Sir Charles Asgill, a banker who became the next Lord Mayor, commissioned Joseph Berry of Leather Lane in Holborn to make the Lord Mayor's State Coach which is still used today.

The escort to the Lord Mayor's coach recalls the waterborne transport of the Lord Mayor. They are liveried watermen carrying oars: The Great Twelve Livery Companies:

the Mercers, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, Merchant Taylors, Skinners, Haberdashers, Salters, Ironmongers, Vintners and Clothworkers — participate as of right and the other livery companies by invitation, though the Lord Mayor's "mother company" is always included.

Other participants include bands and members of "privileged regiments" of the City of London such as the Honourable Artillery Company and The Royal Fusiliers. Privileged regiments have the right to march through the City with bayonets fixed, colours flying, and drums beating.

The many other participants lend a unique flavour to the occasion and include organisations that the Lord Mayor wishes to support or has belonged to, such as charities, old schools and business associations before becoming Lord Mayor. St John Ambulance participates, for instance, as do the Zurich Guilds.

Gog and Magog are two woven willow giant reproductions of a pair of statues in the Guildhall. These popular icons reflect the pre-Roman legendary past of the City of London and they too are paraded by volunteers from The Guild of Young Freemen each year..

English produce: Pears

The pear tree and shrub are a species of genus *Pyrus* , in the family Rosaceae, bearing the pomaceous fruit of the same name. Several species of pears are valued for their edible fruit and juices, while others are cultivated as trees. The tree is medium-sized and native to coastal and mildly temperate regions of Europe, North Africa, and Asia. Pear wood is one of the preferred materials in the manufacture of high-quality woodwind instruments and furniture.

About 3000 known varieties of pears are grown worldwide, which vary in both shape and taste. The fruit

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is consumed fresh, tinned, as juice, or dried.

The word pear is probably from Germanic *pera* as a loanword of Vulgar Latin *pira*, the plural of *pirum*, of Semitic origin (*pirâ*), meaning "fruit". Pear cultivation in cool, temperate climates extends to the remotest antiquity, and evidence exists of its use as a food since prehistoric times. Many traces have been found in prehistoric pile dwellings around Lake Zurich. Pears were cultivated in China as early as 2000 BC. An article on Pear tree cultivation in Spain is recorded in Ibn al-'Awwam's 12th-century agricultural work, *Book on Agriculture*.



Pear blossoms

The pear was also cultivated by the Romans, who ate the fruits raw or cooked, just like apples. Pliny's *Natural History* recommended stewing them with honey and noted three dozen varieties. The Roman cookbook *De re coquinaria* has a recipe for a spiced, stewed-pear patina, or soufflé. Romans also introduced the fruit to England.

The enormous number of varieties of the cultivated European pear are without doubt derived from one or two wild subspecies widely distributed throughout Europe, and sometimes forming part of the natural vegetation of the forests. Court accounts of Henry III of England record pears shipped from La Rochelle-Normande and presented to the king by the sheriffs of the City of London. The French names of pears grown in English medieval gardens suggest that their reputation, at the least, was French.

Recipe: <https://www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk/recipes/pear-apple-and-cider-muffins/>

Ingredients

You'll also need

12-hole muffin tin lined with muffin cases

Method: Heat the oven to 170°C/150°C fan/gas 3½. Quarter and core the pears, finely chop 1½ of them and finely slice the remaining ½ pear. Put the yogurt, oil, sugar, apples and eggs in a large mixing bowl and whisk until

125g stewed apple (see tip)

1½ tsp baking powder

½ tsp ground cinnamon

2 tbsp runny honey, English if you can find it (optional)

2 medium free-range eggs

200g golden caster sugar

80g full-fat yogurt

325g plain flour

1 tsp ground ginger

100ml dry cider

80ml vegetable oil

2 pears



smooth. Pour over the cider and whisk again.

Add the flour, baking powder, spices and chopped pears, then fold everything together until just combined, being careful not to overmix the batter as this can make the muffins dense and tough.

Divide the mixture evenly among the muffin cases, then top each with pear slices. Bake for 40-45 minutes until risen, golden and a skewer pushed into the middle of a muffin comes out clean.

Remove the muffins from the tin and brush the tops with runny honey, if using. Allow them to cool, then wrap as gifts or store in a sealed container until ready to eat.

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