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**C**ampaign for an **E**nglish **P**arliament

# **Think of England Number 116: December 2021**



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Number XX Month Year

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## Campaign for an English Parliament Aims, Principles and Policies.

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

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

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

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

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

**Editorial:** Most of the news this month is directly related to the overpopulation of England, at 405 per sq Km. Apart from the Netherlands at 446 the most densely populated country in Europe.



Sewage treatment plants overflowing, beyond capacity, even in dry periods, traffic congestion, planning to build on flood plains, flooding blamed on climate change rather than the proximal reasons of building on soak land and failure to maintain flood defences. Moreover as more and more land is covered by hard surfaces the rain will runoff into rivers creating greater floods and less water returned to aquifers leading to future water shortages.

And talking about overpopulation just look at our bloated House of Lords; bloated with party cronies and donors. A 'senior' House that the UK constitution sees fit to allow to scrutinise and revise the domestic laws for England but nowhere else in the UK. A fact that no UK news outlet chooses to bring to the public's attention.

The UK government have changed the names of two agencies that originally had the name of our country, England, in them. Presumably that was to differentiate England from the rest of the UK. Now Public Health England has become the UK Health Security Agency and Highways England has become National Highways both implying that their remit is UK wide and that any separate issues for England do not exist.

When it comes to England the mainstream media make a point of ignoring any reference to this country if possible hence I had to look up National Voices in order to find out what it was.

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**Campaigning for England:** The campaign was set up as a not for profit company in 1998 when a group of six founder members realised what profound changes to the British constitution the devolution acts of that year would make. That was a generation ago, and we have all grown older in that time and now I am able to tick the last box in any age range. We need to hand over the reins to another generation to keep the flag flying. We know and appreciate what members of our generation still do in writing to MPs but that is not enough for the Campaign to continue. In the past we have lobbied MPs in Parliament, set up meetings in the Palace of Westminster, organized local groups and made presentations at meetings and have been invited to do so. I joined the CEP in 1998 and have been variously treasurer, Chairman, fund raiser, membership secretary and newsletter editor. That initial six and those of us that came after have contributed to the success of making the idea of an English Parliament acceptable despite initial sneers, smears and jeers and slurs of racism. I have given my notice that I shall cease as editor of the Newsletter in November 2022 and as membership secretary in November 2023. We need replace members of the National Council and have some active volunteers to progress the campaign for the next 20+ years.



### **The Constitution : Time to reform this shabby House of Lords**

Alice Thomson Tuesday November 09 2021, 9.00pm, The Times

Off to the Lords, my editor said, when I became the most junior political correspondent on *The Times* in my twenties. I returned in 1999 when the Lords was at last partially reformed to watch the majority packing their trunks. The 11th Duke of Devonshire, who wore yellow socks and spent his Januarys rearranging the books in the guest bedrooms at Chatsworth, politely suggested this “hybrid” wouldn’t work. “We must have a fully elected second chamber,” he said. “Before it was quirky, now those who pay money, and slimeballs, will get in.”

As a journalist, Boris Johnson once railed against “the putrefaction of the honours system”, but he is becoming the worst offender. He has created dozens of peers in two years, including one of his brothers, three of his former colleagues at *The Daily Telegraph*, Claire Fox, who once defended the IRA, and Evgeny Lebedev, the son of a former KGB agent. Now his party stands accused of systematically offering seats in the Lords to a group of multimillionaire donors and party treasurers who have paid more than £3 million each to the Tories. In the past two decades.

With nearly 800 members, it’s the largest debating chamber in the world after the Chinese National People’s Congress, bigger even than the EU parliament.

No one can be bothered to reform the Lords. But it should be done. For a start the number of peers needs to be cut drastically. In America there are only 100 senators.

In the long term, peerages should be decoupled from the honours system. Donors could be given knight-hoods if they are desperate for a congratulatory bauble. The revising chamber should be filled partly with specialists and partly by members who are voted in using proportional representation. Their role would still be to scrutinise legislation.

**English Affairs:** Agriculture, Education, Environment, Health and Welfare, Local government, Planning, Police and Courts, Roads and Transport, Tourism,

### **Rural firms ‘losing out’ after EU funds replaced**

Louisa Clarence-Smith Monday November 08 2021, 5.52am, The Times

Rural businesses have accused ministers of “levelling down” the countryside after analysis of the budget found they will suffer a shortfall of hundreds of millions of pounds in grant funding.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which replaces EU structural funds that targeted economic disparities, has not retained ringfenced funding for rural areas. The size of it, due to launch in April 2022, will not match the £1.5 billion of EU funding until 2024-25.

Jackie Storey, a sheep and vegetable farmer near Carlisle, Cumbria, said: “How do they expect us to make farming more sustainable, cut back on carbon emissions, if they are taking the funds away from farming?”

The Treasury and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs did not respond to requests for comment.

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### University structure nurtures low-grade courses, says report

Charlotte Wace Monday November 08 2021, 12.01am, The Times

The typical student debt in England is £45,000, leaving many students with a lifetime burden. But 54 per cent of the value of student loans is written off in an equivalent loss to the Treasury of £8 billion a year. The report, titled *The Value of University*, states that many degree courses do not offer good value for money and argues that too much public money is being spent on courses that fail to improve the lifetime earnings of students.

Studying creative arts has zero impact on earnings for the average female graduate and a negative impact for the average male graduate, it says. But it receives £1.2 billion, the largest subsidy of any subject. This equates to £37,000 per student, compared with £11,000 for engineers.

The report argues that money could be invested in technical education, offering school-leavers an alternative to university. Savings could also be channelled into bursaries to fund courses such as engineering and medicine, which reward students with higher pay at the same time as benefiting the country. These courses are significantly underfunded, according to the report. The remainder of the savings, it says, could be invested in research and development.

Robert Colvile, the director of the Centre for Policy Studies, said: “As well as adding to the workforce of engineers and scientists, it will reduce the number of students who default on their loans, potentially saving the Treasury billions of pounds that can be reinvested into the education system of the future.”

The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that about 20 per cent of current undergraduates will be poorer as a result of choosing higher education.

For the bottom 20 courses, according to the Office for Students, no more than a third of the cohort can expect to complete the course and go on into graduate employment.



### Sewage dumped in rivers for months on end

Rhys Blakely, Science Correspondent Monday November 08 2021, 12.01am, The Times

Conservative MPs suffered a backlash last week after they voted down an amendment to the Environment Bill that would have placed a legal duty on water companies “to take all reasonable steps to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows”. The Commons is due to debate the amendment again today. Campaigners fear it will be altered to lessen its impact.

A report was prepared by Professor Peter Hammond, a member of the campaign group Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (Wasp). It shows that a treatment works run by Southern Water in West Sussex, appears to have spilt untreated waste almost continuously for about six months into the Rother, an ecologically precious chalk stream. Thames Water has five sewage treatment works (STW) that each released untreated effluent — a blend of raw sewage and rainwater — into rivers for at least 3,000 hours last year, equivalent to more than four months of spilling. Between July 2019 and June 2020, the Shrewton treatment works operated by Wessex Water spilt for 5,110 hours, or more than seven months, into the River Till, another highly vulnerable chalk stream. During the same period, treatment works in Ilkley, operated by Yorkshire Water, spilled into the River Wharfe for almost 2,200 hours — equivalent to about three months, just downstream of England’s first designated river bathing site. This is only supposed to happen when a treatment plant is in danger of being overwhelmed — typically by very heavy rain — to avoid the system backing up in homes.

Hammond’s analysis suggests that the Environment Agency (EA) often has no idea about when STWs are spilling untreated waste. The Agency generally allows discharge from sewage works as long as two conditions are met: the treatment works must be treating sewage above a rate stipulated in its permit and it must be during a period of rainfall or snow melt. Hammond found more than 700 breaches of these conditions at 13 Thames Water STWs over three years. Less than 5 per cent of these spills are in the EA’s records, suggesting that it is missing 95 per cent of Thames Water’s illegal spills. He has also shown that huge numbers of STWs do not have monitoring equipment to enable illegal spills to be detected.

Anglian Water has more than 1,100 STWs but only 22 have a system to monitor the amount of sewage being treated. Of those, 21 do not have a permit to release untreated effluent directly into rivers.

The one STW with a sewage treatment meter and a permit to make storm discharge is at Canvey Island.

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However, a freedom of information request shows that the equipment that records sewage spills at this works failed eight weeks after installation. “Therefore the EA and Wasp has no direct way to detect early spills at any of Anglian’s STWs,” Hammond said.

A spokeswoman for the Environment Agency said it was reviewing data from more than 12,000 storm overflows “to identify those which may be operating in dry weather or are potentially non-compliant with EA permit requirements.



### **Health bill gives too much power to Whitehall**

Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, November 22 2021, 12.01am, The Times  
As we recover from the pandemic and look to “build back better”, enhancing local integration of health and care services will be crucial. The Health and Care Bill, which is passing through parliament at present, is widely accepted by NHS leaders as the right way to help do this.

It proposes to embrace partnership working by bringing together local government and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to improve population health and address health inequalities. Far from being a top-down reorganisation, healthcare leaders have worked with the government to drive the substance of the reforms.

The bill does, however, have an Achilles heel. Schedule 6 gives significant, unchecked and burdensome powers to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to intervene at any stage in decisions about changes to local healthcare services. In practice, this could mean ministers in Whitehall being accountable for day-to-day operational decisions about the location or type of treatment provided by local NHS GP and dentistry services. As the government’s own impact assessment shows, this will add little value, delay important service changes, and undermine clinical decision-making. There are, of course, important reasons for the secretary of state to have oversight of service changes — namely to ensure public accountability, giving constituents assurance that any grievances expressed to their MP will be escalated. However, it is also in the interests of service providers, patients, their MPs and the secretary of state that these powers have checks and balances and that any decisions are made based on clinical expertise and, ultimately, the needs of patients. The proposed changes would override this and there is no guarantee of any local or clinical input into Whitehall’s decision or a requirement for the secretary of state to justify why a decision on service reconfiguration is in the public interest.

To address this issue, the NHS Confederation, Local Government Association and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have recommended amendments to the bill. These would require the secretary of state to consider clinical advice from senior local doctors and justify publicly why the decision made is in the public interest. It also requires that the views of local health overview and scrutiny committees are taken into account, providing accountability outwards to communities, not just upwards to Whitehall. Our joint proposal also has support from the British Medical Association and National Voices, (*National Voices is the leading coalition of health and social care charities in England, not explained by the Times. Ed.*)..

As the bill returns to the House of Commons for the report stage this month, we urge MPs to interrogate what they, the secretary of state, service providers and patients would stand to gain from giving the health secretary such significant powers over clinical decisions.

### **Social care bosses sound alert over winter plight of the elderly and disabled**

Nadeem Badshah Monday November 29 2021, 12.01am, The Times

An estimated 204,241 people are waiting to have their social care needs assessed, a “very significant” rise from September, according to the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (Adass). There are also 25,468 people thought to be waiting for care or a direct payment so that they can organise their care, and 166,136 people waiting for an overdue review of their care plan.

Of those waiting for an initial assessment, more than 40,000 have been waiting longer than half a year, the survey of 85 social care bosses suggested. “This is not just an inconvenience. It means that people’s needs are not being met,” the report said. “It is likely to mean that their wellbeing and mental and physical health deteriorates or worse.” Adass has encouraged the government to urgently stabilise the sector with emergency funds.

The association’s snap survey between November 2 and 18 was responded to by more than half of directors in England. More than 1.5 million hours of commissioned home care could not be provided between

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August and October because of a lack of capacity, Adass estimated. Forty-eight per cent of councils were found to have reported care home closures or providers going out of business in the past six months. This is up from 35 per cent in the summer and 25 per cent before the pandemic.

### Treasury cracks down on councils' risky borrowing

Louisa Clarence-Smith, Monday November 22 2021, 12.01am, The Times

The Treasury has introduced restrictions stopping local authorities borrowing to fund the acquisition of properties primarily for yield, rather than regeneration. However, concerns remain about local authority governance and their ability to make complex investment decisions. The Treasury plans to offer lower-cost public loans to councils if they pass the vetting of the new UK Infrastructure Bank. Chris Grigg, chairman of the bank says local authorities that don't arrange loans through his fund will have to explain why to their auditor. He said there was "a desire to dodge some of the problems" caused by the "Spelthorne effect", referring to the council in Surrey that borrowed £1 billion in public money to fund a commercial property buying spree for rental income.

The bank has begun offering to arrange loans to local authorities at a rate 20 basis points cheaper than the government's Public Works Loan Board, the main lender to councils. The minimal scrutiny of loan requests made to the board has become a cause for alarm. It does not ask about the intended basis of the loan, because local capital projects will already have passed the council's internal governance processes.

Many cases of poor governance and risky investments have put taxpayer funds at risk.

Councils in Croydon and Slough have effectively declared themselves bankrupt in the past year and were accused by the government of "poor leadership and chronic financial mismanagement".

### New homes planned for flood-risk areas

Kieran Gair Monday November 22 2021, 12.01am, The Times

A report warned that England was likely to see many more properties built in areas at high risk of flooding, potentially leaving tens of thousands of people in greater danger from extreme storms. The study by Localis, an independent think tank, and commissioned by LV= General Insurance, found that 4,255 new homes had received planning permission in areas considered highly likely to flood. The most affected regions are in Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands, with half of these homes situated on a major development on a floodplain in north Lincolnshire.

Researchers analysed more than 16,000 planning applications between January and September and found planning permissions had been granted in local authority areas where more than 10 per cent of homes were at significant risk of flooding.

The report also found that almost 200 planning permissions had been granted for 5,283 new homes in the highest-risk local authorities in the country. It warned that England was likely to see many more properties built in areas at high risk of flooding as authorities grappled with an overwhelming need for new homes. The Environment Agency sets out which parts of the country it deems to be at greatest risk from flooding. However, local councils decide whether or not to allow building to go ahead in these areas.



### Town halls are losing the war on potholes

Ben Clatworthy, Transport Correspondent Thursday November 11 2021, 12.01am, The Times

One in every 16 miles of minor roads managed by councils in England have been given the lowest "red" rating, according to figures published by the Department for Transport (DfT). In the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, half of the roads surveyed were given the lowest rating for their state of repair. In Derbyshire, 43 per cent of roads were graded red, and 35 per cent in Wolverhampton. On average, 17 per cent of local roads are in need of repair.

In England, local roads are resurfaced every 105 years on average, according to a recent report by the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA). This compares with every 36 years for A roads. The AA also found after analysis of the figures that one in every 25 miles of A road managed by councils were in poor condition. Potholes are one of the biggest concerns on local roads, posing a danger to cyclists and motorists. Defective road surfaces were a contributory factor in 671 injuries and ten fatalities on roads in 2019 — often

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when cyclists were thrown off after hitting a hole. Much of the blame has been laid on historical under-funding of local roads. The government is investing more than £1.1 billion in the local network in England in 2021-22 and funding has risen sharply in recent years.

The RAC reported the sharpest quarterly rise in pothole-related breakdowns. In the first three months of the year almost 4,700 call-outs were made for damage typically caused by holes in the road, including broken suspension springs, distorted wheels and damaged shock absorbers. The prospect of a cold winter is especially worrying as the freezing and thawing process causes the road surface to crumble away.

### **Halt spread of smart motorways, say MPs**

Ben Clatworthy, Transport Correspondent Tuesday November 02 2021, 12.01am, The Times

A Transport Select Committee's report said: "The government and National Highways should pause the roll-out of new all-lane running schemes until five years of safety and economic data is available for every all-lane running scheme introduced before 2020 and the implementation of the safety improvements in the government's action plan has been independently evaluated."

Smart motorways are intended to boost capacity by removing the permanent hard shoulder to create an extra lane. Refuge areas allowing cars to pull off in an emergency are sited up to 1.6 miles apart, variable speed limits are used to keep traffic flowing and lanes are closed with a red X on gantries if a vehicle breaks down on the road ahead.

Stretches of all-lane running motorways were introduced in 2014, and 141 miles are now in operation.

Concerns have been raised over their safety, especially if vehicles break down without reaching a refuge area. The report recommends retrofitting emergency refuge areas, making them three quarters of a mile apart where possible, and a maximum of one mile apart.

There have been several types of smart motorway, including "controlled" stretches that have variable speed limits shown on gantries and a permanent hard shoulder for use only in emergencies.

### **Despair of smart motorway architect Sir Mike Penning**

Nicholas Hellen Sunday November 14 2021, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

The concept for smart motorways began in 2006 under Labour, when a short stretch of the M42 hard shoulder near Birmingham was made live at busy times. It seemed a shrewd way of creating extra lanes without having to widen bridges or concrete the countryside. But Sir Mike Penning says the results have been "disastrous" and the civil servants behind them should be forced to resign, according to the former transport minister who approved them. He believes that National Highways and the bodies that preceded it took shortcuts that compromised safety features designed to protect drivers who broke down when the hard shoulder was being used as a live lane.

Penning said he and Philip Hammond, then transport secretary, agreed to roll out smart motorways if they incorporated safeguards deployed in the pilot scheme.

"The Highways Agency said [they] would be covered by a comprehensive network of technology ... steadfastly maintained and monitored by a well-resourced workforce. Problems in live lanes would be rapidly identified, with speedy closures to protect stranded drivers." "The reality could not be more different. Smart motorways have been disastrous. From faulty cameras to outdated equipment, a seemingly wanton lack of care is resulting in a loss of public faith." He also said it was time for National Highways to come under stronger supervision.



### **Charges for parking spaces to discourage the use of cars faces opposed by small businesses**

Ben Clatworthy, Transport Correspondent | Will Humphries, Southwest Correspondent Monday November 08 2021, 12.01am, The Times

Thousands of motorists face being charged more than £400 a year to park at work under proposals to cut air pollution and make car use less affordable.

Bristol council will vote on its workplace parking levy this week. The levy would mean employers with more than 11 spaces being charged for each additional bay. The fees are typically passed on to employees. If the plans are approved Bristol will become the second city running the scheme. Nottingham has charged

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£428 for spaces since 2012. Similar plans are being considered in Oxford and Leicester. The mayor of London has also published guidance to boroughs about introducing charges.

“Bristol has huge problems with congestion and air quality in the centre and we want to alleviate some of that,” David Wilcox, the Green Party councillor proposing the plan, said. There are estimated to be 8,600 parking spaces in central Bristol and 57,000 across the city.

### **Rail revamp of the north facing cuts to save money**

Steven Swinford, Political Editor Monday November 15 2021, 12.01am, The Times

Boris Johnson is poised to shelve plans for a big rail project in northern England and downgrade another in favour of smaller schemes that can be delivered more quickly.

The integrated rail plan is expected to mothball the construction of the eastern leg of HS2 between Birmingham and Leeds. It will also downgrade plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail, a new east-west line across the Pennines between Manchester and Leeds.

Instead of building an entirely new line as originally planned, the government will upgrade existing parts of the route while building some new sections. Ministers believe that this will make it far quicker to build and cut costs as part of £100 billion of investment in the network over the next 20 years. There could however be a backlash from Tory MPs in northern seats, who have long pressed for both the eastern leg of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

Three new high-speed lines include a 42-mile section between Birmingham and East Midlands Parkway, just south of Nottingham. This is intended to cut journey times between the two cities from 72 to 27 minutes. A second high-speed route will run south from Leeds for about 23 miles, helping to cut the journey time to Sheffield from 42 to 24 minutes. A third stretch will run for 33 miles from Crewe to Manchester, to complete the western leg of HS2.

### **Governing England:**

#### **UK Statutory Instruments for England**

**No. 1307:** The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2021

**No. 1305:** The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) (Amendment) Order 2021

**No. 1271:** The Products Containing Meat etc. (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

**No. 1269:** The Private Storage Aid for Piguement (England) Regulations 2021

**No. 1222:** The Housing (Right to Buy) (Designated Rural Areas and Designated Regions) (England) Order 2021

### **UK Parliament: Business: Committees on English Affairs:**

#### **Education Committee:**

**Prison Education:** The inquiry is examining how current arrangements support learners in custody and how well prison education delivers the skills needed by employers. The inquiry is considering education for adults, young people and children in custody.

**The future of post-16 qualifications:** The Education Committee will hold an inquiry examining how effectively post-16, level 3 education and qualifications (such as A Levels, T Levels, BTECs and apprenticeships) prepare young people for the world of work.

**11 November 2021:** The Education Committee continues its inquiry on Children's Homes with an evidence session examining education, support and outcomes of children in children's homes with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), and the sufficiency of children's home places across England.

#### **The House of Commons Transport Select Committee**

##### **First evidence session of its inquiry on the road freight supply chains.**

19 November 2021: During its inquiry, the Committee will examine the challenges facing the road freight supply chain, including the pandemic, driver shortages and changes to border procedures. The Committee will explore how the sector has worked to alleviate those problems and what more it could do. It will also examine the effectiveness of Government policy in this area, including recent and proposed changes to driver training and regulation, including cabotage and drivers' hours rules.

##### **Pause Smart Motorway roll-out until safety delivered and assured**

2 November 2021: MPs call on Government to pause the rollout of all-lane running Smart Motorways until five years of safety and economic data is available and safety improvements have been delivered and independently evaluated

Department for Transport and Highways England failed to deliver on promises to implement safety im-

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improvements for all-lane running Smart Motorways

Safety risks should have been addressed before all-lane running Smart Motorways were rolled out.

Available data on safety of all-lane-running motorways 'limited and volatile'

### Health and Social Care Committee

**The future of General Practice Inquiry:** The Committee has launched a new inquiry to explore the future of NHS general practice, examining the key challenges facing general practice over the next five years as well as the biggest current and ongoing barriers to access to general practice.

**Workforce: recruitment, training and retention in health and social care Inquiry:** Reasons behind staff leaving the health and social care sectors and how to tackle them will be examined in a new inquiry. Workforce recruitment and training will also be explored.

**12 November 2021:** MPs examining reform of NHS litigation hear from bereaved parents

The first session of the inquiry to examine the case for reform of NHS litigation hears from parents who have experienced the loss of a child as a result of failures in care.

### Justice Committee:

**22 November 2021:** The Justice Committee takes evidence from Prisons Minister Victoria Atkins on Wednesday 24 November in one-off session focussing on failings at Oakhill and Rainsbrook Secure Training Centres.

**19 November 2021:** The Justice Committee begins taking oral evidence for its inquiry into Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences, with a session focused on the experiences of prisoners serving the sentences and their mental health

### Constitution Committee

**Future Governance of the UK inquiry:** publication of the intergovernmental relations review and outstanding Dunlop Review recommendations

Dear Mr Gove, I write on behalf of the Constitution Committee about its inquiry into the future governance of the UK. We wrote to Neil O'Brien MP on 9 November to invite him to provide evidence to the Committee about English devolution and the Shared Prosperity Fund – both subjects we were unable to discuss with you before the summer recess as they did not form part of your ministerial portfolio at that stage. We very much hope to hear from Mr O'Brien before the Christmas recess – again, so we can reflect the current state of play in our report. We would also be grateful if you could respond before the House rises for the Christmas recess, to allow us sufficient time to reflect fully the Government's position in our final report. Yours sincerely, Baroness Taylor of Bolton Chair of the Constitution Committee

### Legislation

#### Health and Care Bill: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 26 November 2021 at 14:37: Next stage 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

**Long title:** A Bill to make provision about health and social care.

PART I Health Service in England: integration, collaboration and other changes

#### Judicial Review and Courts Bill: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 25 November 2021 at 14:15: Next stage report

**Long title:** A Bill to Make provision about the provision that may be made by, and the effects of, quashing orders; to make provision restricting judicial review of certain decisions of the Upper Tribunal; to make provision about the use of written and electronic procedures in courts and tribunals; to make other provision about procedure in, and the organisation of, courts and tribunals.

#### Education (Assemblies) Bill [HL]: Private Members' Bill (Starting in the House of Lords)

Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 25 November 2021 at 11:07: Next stage 3<sup>rd</sup> reading

**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.



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### Environment Act 2021: Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2019-21, 2021-22: Last updated: 15 November 2021 at 18:17 : Royal Assent

**Long title:** A Bill to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.

**England's hero: Sir Richard Arkwright** (23 December 1732 – 3 August 1792) was an English inventor and a leading entrepreneur during the early Industrial Revolution. He is credited as the driving force behind the development of the spinning frame, known as the water frame after it was adapted to use water power; and he patented a rotary carding engine to convert raw cotton to 'cotton lap' prior to spinning. He was the first to develop factories housing both mechanised carding and spinning operations. Arkwright's achievement was to combine power, machinery, semi-skilled labour and the new raw material of cotton to create mass-produced yarn. His organizational skills earned him the accolade "father of the modern industrial factory system,".

Richard Arkwright was born in Preston, Lancashire. His father, Thomas, was a tailor and a Preston Guild burgess and could not afford to send him to school but instead arranged for him to be taught to read and write by his cousin Ellen. He was apprenticed to a barber at the nearby town and began his working life as a barber and wig-maker in Bolton in the early 1760s. Here he invented a waterproof dye for use on the fashionable periwigs of the time, the income from which later funded his prototype cotton machinery. In 1768, Arkwright and John Kay, a clockmaker, returned to Preston where they worked on a spinning machine. In 1769 Arkwright patented the spinning frame, a machine which produced twisted threads using wooden and metal cylinders rather than human fingers. This machine, initially powered by horses greatly reduced the cost of cotton-spinning, and would lead to major changes in the textile industry.

Arkwright made improvements to an original carding machine and in 1775 took out a patent for a new one, which converted raw cotton to a continuous skein prior to spinning. It could make cotton thread thin and strong enough for the warp threads of cloth.

Arkwright and John Smalley set up a small horse-driven factory at Nottingham. Arkwright formed a partnership with Jedediah Strutt and Samuel Need, wealthy nonconformist hosiery manufacturers. In 1771, the partners built the world's first water-powered mill at Cromford, which covered both carding and spinning operations and employed 200 people. In 1776 Arkwright built a second, larger mill at Cromford and, soon afterwards, mills at Bakewell, Wirksworth and elsewhere. His success as a businessman and innovator was widely recognized in his own time. The spinning frame was a significant advance over Hargreaves's spinning jenny, in that very little training was required to operate the machinery, which produced a strong yarn suitable for warp threads.



**England's history:** Exiles built little England by the Black Sea after Norman Conquest

Mark Bridge: December 27 2019, 12:01am, The Times

It is a tale of English adventurers who fled a king's tyranny, crossed oceans and built a version of their homeland on distant shores, naming towns after those they left behind. Little-known fugitives from the Norman Conquest created their own New England on the Black Sea more than 500 years earlier.

Late-medieval accounts of English exiles rewarded for derring-do on behalf of the eastern Roman, or Byzantine, emperor read like a film script but a historian has claimed that there is evidence for significant aspects of the story. Caitlin Green, a medieval historian and archaeologist, has published the first account of this eastern "Nova Anglia" in *BBC History Magazine*.

A colourful telling of the purported exodus comes from the 14th-century Icelandic saga of Edward the Confessor, which relays how, after the defeat at Hastings in 1066, English chiefs appealed to the Danes to help them to oust William the Bastard. "When the English chiefs were sure that the Danes would not help them . . . then they left their estates and fled away from the land with a great host."

It says the force travelled in 350 ships and was led by one Siward, earl of Gloucester. After a series of ad-

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ventures, the saga says the exiles heard of great strife out of Mickle-garth (then Constantinople, now Istanbul), which was under siege by land and sea. They made haste and took the enemy ships, causing such a rout that the foe on land also “sprang up and fled”.

The saga says that the emperor “took wonderfully well” to his guests. It says that he offered the English places in his bodyguard unit, the Varangians, but some asked for land instead. Unwilling to risk depriving local notables of their estates, the emperor said there was former Roman territory lying six days and nights’ sail across the sea “in the east and northeast from Mickle-garth” that was theirs if they could take it from the heathens.

After many battles, the saga relates, they duly won the land and called it England. “To the towns that were in the land and to those which they built they gave the names of the towns in England. They called them both London and York, and by the names of other great towns.”

This might all sound far-fetched, and some of it is certainly wrong. No Siward was earl of Gloucester, for example, although there was an important thegn of that name. Nevertheless, Dr Green says that the idea is supported by more credible sources much closer to post-conquest years.

Early in the 12th century, Orderic Vitalis, the Anglo-French chronicler, described the “groans” of the English for their lost liberty after 1066 and their appeals to the Danish king.

He added: “Some of them who were still in the flower of youth travelled into remote lands and bravely offered their arms to Alexius, emperor of Constantinople, a man of great wisdom and nobility.” He said that “the emigrants and their heirs faithfully served the holy empire, and are still honoured among the Greeks”.

In her book *The Alexiad*, written in about 1148, the Byzantine princess Anna Comnena mentions the presence in the imperial service of Varangians from “the island of Thule”, which is often taken to be Britain. Historians agree that the Varangian guard went from being dominated by Scandinavians for the 10th and much of the 11th centuries to being a primarily English unit.

There are also more tantalising signs that a Black Sea English colony could have existed, as described in later chronicles. Historians have identified place names in medieval maps of the Black Sea coast that may refer to former English settlements. These include a town of “Susaco” and a river “Londina”, thought by some to derive from Sussex and London respectively. Other sources refer to the presence of “Saxi”, or Saxons, enduring in the region in the 1300s when they were resisting incursions from the Tatars.

*Sir, As some anecdotal evidence to your piece on Saxons fleeing to the Black Sea (“Conquered exiles built little England by the Black Sea,” Dec 27), I had my DNA analysed a few years ago. I have a long line of ancestors through the male line whose lives in England are well documented back to the 13th century.*

*Nevertheless, the DNA through the male line showed 33 per cent of men with similar DNA in 1500 lived in Georgia and 32 per cent in eastern Turkey. To my astonishment, only 3 per cent were in England. Your historian now has a further small piece of evidence. Giles Clarke, Wrington, Somerset*

**English culture: Hoodening** also spelled *hodening* and *oodening*, is a folk custom found in Kent.

The tradition entails the use of a wooden hobby horse known as a **hooden horse** that is mounted on a pole and carried by an individual hidden under a sackcloth. Originally, the tradition was restricted to the area of East Kent, although in the twentieth century it spread into neighbouring West Kent.

As recorded from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries, hoodening was a tradition performed at Christmas time by groups of farm labourers. They would form into teams to accompany the hooden horse on its travels around the local area, and although the makeup of such groups varied, they typically included an individual to carry the horse, a leader, a man in female clothing known as a “Mollie”, and several musicians. The team would then carry the hooden horse to local houses and shops, where they would expect payment for their appearance.

The origins of the hoodening tradition, and the original derivation of the term *hooden*, remain subject to academic debate. A widely accepted explanation among scholars is that the term *hooden* relates to *hooded*, a reference to the sackcloth worn by the individual carrying the horse.



The Bayeux tapestry depicts the fleet of William the Conqueror invading England



Hoodeners in Deal, Kent in 1909

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**English produce:** Cranberries. There are 3-4 species of cranberry, classified by *subgenus*:

They are related to bilberries, blueberries, and huckleberries. In England cranberry may refer to the native species *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, while in North America, cranberry may refer to *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. *Vaccinium oxycoccos* is cultivated in central and northern Europe and can be found in acidic bogs throughout the cooler regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

Cranberries are low, creeping shrubs or vines up to 7 ft long and 2 to 8 in in height; they have slender, wiry stems that are not thickly woody and have small evergreen leaves. The flowers are dark pink, with very distinct *reflexed* petals, leaving the style and stamens fully exposed and pointing forward. They are pollinated by bees. The fruit is a berry that is larger than the leaves of the plant; it is initially light green, turning red when ripe. It is edible, but with an acidic taste that usually overwhelms its sweetness.

Most cranberries are processed into products such as juice, sauce, jam, and sweetened dried cranberries, with the remainder sold fresh to consumers. Cranberry sauce is a traditional accompaniment to turkey at Christmas dinner.

98% are grown in the US where they are largely wet harvested. But fruit farmer John Myatt planted the only cranberry crop in England at Mockbeggar Farm, near Rochester, in Kent



### Recipe: Cranberry crumble cake (Recipe provided by Hand Made Food)

#### Ingredients:

90g ½ level tsp baking powder	1 large egg
soft brown sugar	60g soft butter
2 tbsp cranberry juice or orange juice or orange liqueur (Cointreau)	90g self-raising flour

#### For the topping

60g cold butter	150g whole fresh cranberries
60g flaked almonds	90g demerara sugar
90g plain flour	½ level tsp ground cinnamon

1 Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4. Mix all the cake ingredients together to make a batter, by hand or with a beater.

2 Line the sides and base of a 25cm-diameter round springform cake tin with baking paper. Butter generously.

3 Pour the cake batter into the tin and level off the surface with a wet spoon. Scatter the cranberries on top of the cake batter.

4 Coarsely grate the cold butter into a bowl and add the remaining crumble topping ingredients. Mix to create a coarse breadcrumb-like texture. Scatter the crumble mixture evenly over the top of the cranberries in the cake tin.

5 Bake for 50 minutes. You'll know it's ready when a skewer inserted into the cakey base comes out clean.

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(Sucking England dry)

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