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

Think of England Number 117: January 2022



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Number 117 January 2022

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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: So, Gove, born, bred and educated in Scotland, sees fit to break up England into competing petty states. They will still be subservient to a supra-national government that will determine policy and laws for England aided and abetted by MPs from Scotland and Wales that have their own national governments. To say nothing of the influence of the House of Lords in these matters, which has no jurisdiction over the rest of the UK.



The Times' "English devolution will transform Whitehall" was in in the Scottish section because, of course there is no English section. Gove has decided to impose a layer of 'Governors' in England, more jobs for the boys and more internal dissension, despite being told so often that Tories object to an English Parliament because it would entail more politicians, Tory Gove seems to be an anti-English Scot to his roots. And if the English do not trust the UK government, with good reason as it treats them as a cash cow to appease the rest of the UK, they trust local politicians less. Kevin Pringle writes in the Telegraph that Labour must pledge to give all UK nations a seat at the table but there is no mention of how the English nation will have a seat at the table. Interestingly it may be by every governor or mayor having a separate seat, which will only continue what the rest of the UK objects to and that is the abundance of representatives from England, as they see it, controlling the UK.

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Campaigning for England:

American-style governors could level up England

Henry Zeffman, Chief Political Correspondent | George Grylls, Political Reporter: December 2021, The Times

Plans to “extend, deepen and simplify” devolution are fundamental to Michael Gove’s levelling up aims

Swathes of rural England could elect powerful American-style governors under Michael Gove’s plans to “level up” the country.

Devolution is at the heart of his attempts to flesh out Boris Johnson’s domestic slogan, with an ambition for every part of England to have a local leader with equivalent powers to London by the end of the decade.

Residents of some rural areas where the term mayor is deemed inappropriate could elect governors instead.

The proposal is contained in a draft of the levelling up white paper being written by Gove’s new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Though Downing Street announced in May that the paper would be published by the end of this year, it has been delayed to early next year.

Government figures insist that the delay is simply a reflection of a busy few weeks of announcements before the Christmas break, though there have been tensions about how far-reaching the paper’s proposals should be.

One idea being considered by Gove but yet to receive the green light is a statutory levelling-up quango, which would monitor every aspect of government policy for its impact on regional inequalities.

Plans to “extend, deepen and simplify” devolution, though, are fundamental to Gove’s aims. He has identified an absence of local empowerment as a core reason for regional disparities: the UK is one of the most centralised major economies. London has had mayors since 2000 but a new generation of Conservative mayors, such as Ben Houchen in Tees Valley and Andy Street in the West Midlands, has helped some in government warm to extending devolution.

Gove wants the devolution deals to cover areas with a strong identity and community, which in practice means many will be county deals. The devolution deals will see counties or other areas given more powers over policy areas such as transport, housing or health, and given money to deliver the services that would otherwise be run from Westminster.

Not every area will be forced to have a directly elected mayor, or governor, but those that agree to do so will be given the most powers.

The white paper will set out ambitious plans on devolution so we can see more Andy Streets and Ben Houchens delivering for communities across the country.” The plan for a new tier of local leaders is likely to meet resistance from councillors wedded to the existing system.

It is, in effect, a bet that expansion of elected mayors, and governors, will reduce regional inequalities and drive growth around the country. Whether the smattering of metro mayors supports that is arguable.

But there are questions about local enthusiasm. Turnout in the last London election was 42 per cent; in Manchester 35 per cent; in the West Midlands 31 per cent.

There are concerns over whether there are enough mechanisms to hold powerful local politicians to account day to day. In areas that are staunchly Labour or consistently Tory, would there be enough incentives for mayors or governors to deliver for their constituents, or will they just be able to cling on for term after term?

English devolution will transform Whitehall

Michael Gove has realised that people like regional power, which will alter the reach of Westminster — even in Scotland: Jim Gallagher (a Scottish Civil Servant. Ed.) December 2021, The Times

Politicians, it is said, like to do the right thing only after they have tried all the wrong ones. Maybe that’s what’s happening with Michael Gove. Has he finally realised that people all across England, but especially in its northern towns and cities, want government that is closer to them, and stands up for them, rather than a distant, ineffective, London-centric administration in Whitehall? Certainly he wants them to elect more



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mayors or even “governors”.

Maybe Gove has been secretly listening to experts. They would have told him for ten years or more that in many of those towns and cities, English people feel left behind economically and ignored politically. People are keenly aware of the widening economic gap between most of England and the wealthy south and feel ignored by a London elite that does not focus on their interests or priorities.

And the experts would have told him that trust in the central institutions of the UK state has been declining for years and is extraordinarily low by international standards. Our government and parliament are less trusted than their counterparts in any major country.

What’s more, England is the most unequal country in the developed world.

The gap between its poor regions and its richest is startling.

England is the most centralised country in the developed world. Not only has its local government been systematically gutted of power and resources for decades but it also lacks a crucial regional level of authority, vital for representation and economic growth. Research demonstrates very clearly that when English people have this kind of government, they like it: places with metro mayors, a relatively new and weak form of regional government, uniformly support them.

Every expert will also say that political over-centralisation and regional economic inequality go together. Scotland is a case in point. It had a powerful political presence even before devolution that over decades helped make it the third or fourth richest region in the UK, ahead of the north of England.

There’s no demand for — and little sense in — legislative devolution within England, but there’s no reason why a metro mayor could not have powers as wide as the Scottish or Welsh government.

There are even more profound constitutional implications. Real decentralisation in England will be a radical change in how the whole UK is governed. Parliament’s job will change too. Rather than obsessing about its own sovereignty, it must become the overseer of shared sovereignty. But it is the inevitable implication of what he’s starting.

Edinburgh and Cardiff might think this is just the English getting what the Welsh and Scots already have. But the profound changes in the nature of the UK central state that it’s bound to lead to matter hugely for devolution, which was actually quite well designed constitutionally within Wales and Scotland. The institutions are trusted by their populations and able to make legislative and government choices — too many wrong ones, but that’s politics. Its consistent problems are in relationships with London, which still thinks of itself as running a unitary state with some untidy add-ons. Radical devolution in England will change Whitehall and Westminster and transform those relationships. Michael Gove probably doesn’t see it coming, maybe doesn’t want it, but he might just have kicked that transformation off.



<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/12/tory-devolution-recipe-disaster/>

Tory devolution is a recipe for disaster

We reject elected mayors because we can see where it leads: being represented by a councillor or MP bidding their time for a comeback: Ross Clark December 2021

Levelling up, it seems, does not include levelling with us. It has taken a leaked copy of the white paper to reveal what ministers have in store for English local government - a model that voters have rejected time and time again. Under the plans, all existing 24 county councils and 181 district councils would be abolished and replaced with elected mayoralties. In other words, if your streets, bins and buses are not yet under the command of a Sadiq Khan, Andy Street or Andy Burnham, they soon will be.

Will that be a boon for local democracy? Hardly. Since 2001 there have been 54 English referendums on introducing directly-elected mayors; only in 17 was the answer ‘yes’. Ten were held in 2012 when George Osborne decided that our largest cities should all emulate London. Only Bristol voted yes. Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield all voted no but later had an elected mayor foisted on them anyway. We reject elected mayors because we can see where it leads: being represented by a jumped-up councillor or an MP who has fallen out with their party leader and is bidding their time for a comeback. Such people pose as local prime ministers. In practice they are little more than beggars with megaphones, forever demanding more from the state coffers or puffing up their chests over things outside their remit. Sadiq Khan is the master of the latter art, with his performative calls for looser asylum policy and stronger covid measures. Meanwhile Hammersmith Bridge, one of his genuine responsibilities, goes unrepaired. Even Tory mayors

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are driven towards statism. Andy Street may boast about his £1 billion West Midlands transport plan, but it comes courtesy of a fat grant from central government.

It would be very different if local mayors had real powers, matched with the responsibility of having to raise all their own revenue. Then they would really have to persuade their voters of the merits of their infrastructure programmes – whether they be vanity projects or wise investments. They would have to compete with each other for taxpayers, knowing that Manchester residents upset at tax rises could always decamp up the M62 to Leeds. They would also be free to slash business rates to attract investment. Instead of pursuing the competitive approach to devolution, our Government is following the failed play-book of continental Europe. Across the Channel in France, entire regional cities have fallen into the hands of Communists and National Front people. Powerful local mayors have proved a recipe for extremism and chaos.

Moreover, there seems little genuine public appetite for devolution. Every time some local body diverges slightly from its neighbours, it triggers complaints about ‘postcode lotteries’ and calls for uniformity. But differences between neighbouring districts are the inevitable result of devolving powers. If we don’t want that – and it seems quite clear that we don’t – then elected mayors will be a waste of time and money. Better that the job of local government falls to humble councillors whose titles reflect their limited authority.

Labour must pledge to give all UK nations a seat at the table

Kevin Pringle: Sunday December 2021, The Sunday Times

Before the 1979 general election, the Labour prime minister James Callaghan knew that the times they were a-changing, as well as time being up for his government. As he put it: “There are times, perhaps once every 30 years, when there is a sea-change in politics. It then does not matter what you say or what you do. There is a shift in what the public wants and what it approves of.”

We could be at such a juncture in the UK now, though there is nothing inevitable about it. What political leaders say and do will play a big part, as will other factors such as how and when Boris Johnson’s tenure in Downing Street is brought to an end, and crucially whether Labour can make the most of new circumstances.

It is now reasonable to speculate about a future Labour government, and legitimate to inquire into how it may measure up. From a Scottish perspective, Keir Starmer would do his party and the country a big favour by criticising the dismissive way that Johnson and his ministers have dealt with devolved governments, and resolving to do the opposite. Given there is a Labour-led administration in Wales, Starmer has a political stake in giving Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast a formal role in the development of UK-wide policy and decisions.

Historically, despite ushering in significant constitutional change, notably devolution in the 1990s, Labour governments have tended to leave how business is done at the centre — at Westminster and in Whitehall — largely unchanged. Even House of Lords reform was partial and left the system essentially intact.

The pandemic has underlined that centralised control in Britain is dysfunctional. It doesn’t even reflect unionist principles. There is neither logic nor equity in Treasury support for businesses only being triggered by public health decisions taken for England. Restrictions deemed necessary by administrations in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland should attract a direct and proportionate flow of mitigating funds, otherwise these governance arrangements are English with knobs on rather than British. It should not be beyond the wit of politicians and civil servants to come up with new rules that are robust and fair.

Regardless of Starmer’s stance on more devolution, steps towards federalism, or even another independence referendum, Labour should pledge to re-engineer and rewire how the UK functions at source in London.



Current English Affairs: Roads and Transport, Tourism, Health and Welfare, Education, Police and Courts, Environment, Agriculture

Queue for NHS treatment ‘will grow to 10m by next election’

Steven Swinford, Political Editor, Kat Lay, Health Editor; Becky McCall: December 2021, The Times
The backlog of non-emergency surgeries has been increasing since the beginning of the pandemic

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More than ten million people will still be waiting for treatment on the eve of the next election despite the government's £16 billion NHS rescue plan, with red wall seats among the worst affected, a health consultancy says.

Its analysis shows that there is an NHS backlog of 13.6 million patients, comprising 5.8 million people on NHS waiting lists and a further 7.8 million who need treatment but have not come forward during the pandemic.

GPs have warned that even cancer patients faced lengthy waits and those who could afford to go private were doing so thus creating a "two-tier" health system. Some patients will die as a result, they fear.

The analysis, by health specialists at the LCP consultancy, found that even with the government's multibillion-pound investment in the NHS there would still be a backlog of ten million patients by 2024.

The backlog will be most acute in the northwest, which has 10,469 people per 100,000 on NHS waiting lists and a further 15,756 people per 100,000 who have not come forward and who are described in the study as "hidden need".

The number of people in the northwest who have yet to come forward is twice that of the east of England because of a combination of the region having been harder hit by Covid-19 and higher levels of deprivation.

Dr Jonathan Pearson-Stuttard, head of health analytics at LCP, called for more investment where the disparity was greatest. He said: "The NHS backlog is far larger than many people realise, including those in the NHS. Even with the government's additional funding, unmet need in the NHS will continue to rise in the coming months.

"Government needs to acknowledge the true size of the problem [or it] could face going into the next election with huge numbers of voters living with unmet health need."

The government has pledged an extra £16 billion over three years, funded by an increase in national insurance of 1.25p in the pound.

Raw sewage spills into Thames tripled since 2018

Ben Webster, Environment Editor, January 2022, The Times

The number of discharges of raw sewage into the Thames and its tributaries around Oxford has tripled since 2018 because of Thames Water's failure to invest in sufficient treatment capacity and "massive and inexcusable regulatory failure by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Ofwat, backed by an accommodating government department," according to the report by the Oxford Rivers Improvement Campaign (Oric).

The average sewage treatment works in the area discharged untreated sewage into rivers on 58 occasions and for a total of 821 hours in 2020, up from 42 spills and 599 hours in 2019 and 19 spills and 193 hours in 2018. Oric analysed data from the Environment Agency, Thames Water and the National Rivers Trust on spills from 104 sewage treatment works around Oxford.

Water companies are permitted to release untreated water containing raw sewage into rivers after heavy rain to prevent it backing up in homes, but the figures suggest Thames Water is doing so much more frequently. The report says only about 25-50 hours of spilling per treatment works per year could be justified by the level of rainfall in Oxford.

The authors analysed the capacity of 90 of Thames Water's sewage treatment works and found that at 46 of them it was insufficient to treat the demand on the network. They said many more of the plants would be unable to cope in future with the volumes of sewage and surface water resulting from extra housing and increased storms caused by climate change.

The founding members of Oric are all Oxford residents and include Bill Kingdom, formerly the World Bank's global lead for water sanitation, Richard Knowles, chairman of the Cotswold Rivers Trust, and Mark Hull, a former water industry consultant.

Hull said. "In essence, and with the agreement of politicians and regulators, Thames Water is allowed to use the Upper River Thames as a free open sewer and sewage treatment works.

"This report shows a tide of untreated sewage in the rivers around Oxford has been caused by Thames



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Water's serious failure over the last 10-15 years."

Water samples collected by volunteers in May and June last year at popular river bathing spots in Oxford were found to contain bacteria levels on average twice the recommended safety threshold.

The sewage has been polluting popular wild-swimming spots in Oxford that the government is considering designating as official bathing waters.

Governing England:

UK Parliament: Business: Committees on English Affairs:

9 December 2021: **Mental health services for children and young people risk backward slide**

The Health and Social Care Committee calls for urgent action to prevent mental health services slipping backwards as a result of additional demand created by the pandemic and the scale of unmet need prior to it.

MPs found that despite progress in numbers of young people receiving treatment, it was unacceptable that more than half with a diagnosable condition pre-pandemic do not receive the mental health support they need.

The Report notes that half of mental health conditions become established before the age of 14, while data from NHS Digital showed that in 2020 potentially one in six young people had a diagnosable mental health disorder up from one in nine three years earlier, placing a huge additional strain on already stretched children and young people's mental health services.

New Mental Health Support Teams in schools offered a valuable opportunity to identify those beginning to experience problems with their mental health. However MPs note there was no funding to roll them out nationally in the recent Spending Review settlement and that current plans lack ambition.

The Report also found that too many children and young people were placed in inpatient units far from home, without adequate understanding of their rights, and subject to restrictive interventions.

Health and Social Care Committee Chair Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt said:

"Partly because of the pandemic, we are seeing demand for mental health treatment pushing NHS services to breaking point. Whilst we recognise that capacity to provide such services is increasing, we are not convinced it is happening at a fast enough rate.

"There is a growing risk that elective and emergency care pressures will mean mental health services once again become the poor relation.

"Our report uncovers good progress in schools provision but a continuing failure to find community care for too many young people who end up in inappropriate secure provision that makes their illness even worse."

The Health and Social Care Committee's Expert Panel: Evaluation of the Government's progress against its policy commitments in the area of mental health services in England

This is a House of Commons Committee Expert Panel report, evaluating Government commitments in the area of mental health services. The Government has two months to respond.

1. In 2020, we established and commissioned a panel of experts (known as the Committee's Expert Panel or "Expert Panel") to evaluate—independently of us—progress the Government has made against its own commitments in different areas of healthcare policy. The framework for the Panel's work was set out in our Special Report: Process for independent evaluation of progress on Government commitments (HC 663), published on 5 August 2020. The Expert Panel published its first evaluation of the Government's progress against its policy commitments in the area of maternity services in England on 6 July 2021 (HC 18).

2. The Core members of the Expert Panel are Professor Dame Jane Dacre (Chair), Sir Robert Francis QC, Dr Charlotte Augst, Dr Meerat Kaur, Professor John Appleby, Professor Anita Charlesworth and Professor Stephen Peckham.

3. We asked the Expert Panel to undertake its second evaluation into mental health services in England. For this evaluation, the core Expert Panel members were joined by mental health specialists Dr Ananta Dave, Medical Director, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Peter Fonagy OBE, Head of the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London, Professor Kamaldeep Bhui, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Oxford and Karen Turner, former Director of Mental Health, NHS England.



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4. We thank the members of our Expert Panel for their work and the important contribution they have made in support of the Committee's scrutiny of the Department for Health and Social Care.

The Expert Panel's evaluation

5. With our agreement, the Expert Panel focussed on the following commitments:

Workforce: Commitment to grow the mental health workforce.

Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health: At least 70,000 additional children and

young people each year to receive evidence-based treatment. Achieve 2020/21 target of 95% of children and young people with eating conditions accessing treatment within 1 week for urgent cases and 4 weeks for routine cases. Ensure there is a CYP crisis response that meets the needs of under 18-year-olds.

Adult Common Mental Illness: All areas commission IAPT-Long term condition services.

Adult Severe Mental Illness: 280,000 people with SMI will receive a full annual health check. New integrated community models for adults with a severe mental illness by 2023/24. The therapeutic offer from inpatient mental health services to be improved by increased investment in interventions and activities, resulting in better patient outcomes and experience in hospital. All areas will provide crisis resolution and home treatment (CRHT) functions that are resourced to operate in line with recognised best practice, delivering a 24/7 community-based crisis response and intensive home treatment as an alternative to acute inpatient admission.

6. The Expert Panel's evaluation is appended to this Report. Although its evaluation was undertaken without input from the Committee, we expect the Department to respond to it within the standard two-month period for responses to select Committee reports.



Lords Select Committee: The Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee considers the policy effects of statutory instruments and other types of secondary legislation subject to procedure.

22nd Report - Drawn to the special attention of the House: Private Storage Aid for Pigmeat (England)

Regulations 2021; Products Containing Meat etc. (England) (Amendment) Regulations

Published 2 December 2021

Legislation: Next stages

3rd stage

Education (Environment and Sustainable Citizenship) Bill: Private Members' Bill Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 15 December 2021 at 11:15

A Bill to make provision in the national curriculum regarding sustainable citizenship and protection of the environment

Committee stage

Health and Care Bill: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 23 December 2021 at 16:59

A Bill to make provision about health and social care.

Report Stage

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2019-21, 2021-22: Last updated: 23 December 2021 at 12:20

A Bill to make provision about the police and other emergency workers; to make provision about collaboration between authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence; to make provision about offensive weapons homicide reviews; to make provision for new offences and for the modification of existing offences; to make provision about the powers of the police and other authorities for the purposes of preventing, detecting, investigating or prosecuting crime or investigating other matters; to make provision about the maintenance of public order; to make provision about the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles; to make provision in connection with driving offences; to make provision about cautions; to make provision about bail and remand; to make provision about sentencing, detention, release, management and

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rehabilitation of offenders; to make provision about secure 16 to 19 Academies; to make provision for and in connection with procedures before courts and tribunals; and for connected purposes.

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 15 December 2021 at 19:27

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; and for connected purposes



Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill : Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 15 December 2021 at 11:29

A Bill to make provision about the rent payable under long leases of dwellings; and for connected purposes

Local Government (Disqualification) Bill: Private Members' Bill : Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 13 December 2021 at 14:59

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.

Elderly Social Care (Insurance) Bill: Private Members' Bill : Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 10 December 2021 at 09:43

A Bill to establish a publicly owned body to provide insurance for home owners at cost against selling their homes to pay for elderly social care; and for connected purposes

Royal Assent Granted

Social Security (Up-rating of Benefits) Act 2021: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22: Last updated: 15 December 2021 at 13:23

A Bill to make provision relating to the up-rating of certain social security benefits payable in the tax year 2022-23.

UK Statutory Instruments (Regulations) for England

No. 1472: The Exotic Animal Disease (Amendment) (England) Order

No. 1464: The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order

No. 1443: Animals, England and Wales, food, England and Wales, plant health, England and Wales The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations

No. 1430: The Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2021

No. 1426: The Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (Amendment to Schedule 3) (England) Order 2021

No. 1413: The Eggs (England) Regulations 2021

No. 1392: The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2021

No. 1391: The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2021

No. 1378: The Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2021

No. 1368: The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021

No. 1348: The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations

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England's hero: John Rowland Mallard OBE FRSE FREng (14 January 1927 – 25 February 2021)

Andrew Gregory, Health Editor The Sunday Times

John Mallard saw as early as 1964 that magnetic resonance might be able to diagnose cancer

When Professor John Mallard published research in 1964 suggesting that magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) might be able to diagnose cancer, his findings were promptly ignored.

Undeterred, less than two decades later the medical physicist from Northampton led the team that built the world's first whole-body MRI scanner, cobbled together with copper pipe from a local plumber and a tube from a children's play park. Clinicians used it to scan a man with cancer in 1980. It identified a primary tumour in

the patient's chest, an abnormal liver and secondary cancer in his bones. This time the world paid attention.

The medical imaging technology pioneered by Mallard is now a vital tool in hospitals everywhere, helping to diagnose, treat and save the lives of millions. MRI technology is used in diagnosing cancer, dementia and a wide range of other conditions and injuries. Professor David Lurie, who worked under him and is now developing the next generation of MRI technology, said: "Professor John Mallard was a pioneer, leading light and world-recognised authority in medical physics who led the development of novel scanning technology that is still benefiting doctors and patients today.

"While employed in his previous post, in London, he had performed research which indicated that magnetic resonance might be able to diagnose cancer. He published this in the journal Nature in 1964, but it went largely unnoticed.

Speaking two years ago about the breakthrough, Mallard said: "The driving force for us was the fact that we had x-rays that were telling us everything about the bones. But we had absolutely nothing that was telling us about the soft wet tissues within the body. And that's what MRI did."

Mallard, who was Aberdeen University's inaugural professor of medical physics, was also an early champion of positron emission tomography (PET) imaging, which can produce 3D images of the inside of the body and is one of the world's most powerful tools for studying human diseases.

England's history: first underground railway service

January 10, 1863 - The world's first underground railway service opened in London, the Metropolitan line between Paddington and Farringdon.

In the first half of the 19th century the population and physical extent of London grew greatly. The increasing resident population and the development of a commuting population arriving by train each day led to a high level of traffic congestion with huge numbers of carts, cabs, and omnibuses filling the roads and up to 200,000 people entering the City of London, the commercial heart, each day on foot. By 1850 there were seven railway termini around the urban centre of London: London Bridge and Waterloo to the

south, Shoreditch and Fenchurch Street to the east, Euston and King's Cross to the north, and Paddington to the west. Only Fenchurch Street station was within the City.

The congested streets and the distance to the City from the stations to the north and west prompted many attempts to get parliamentary approval to build new railway lines into the City. None were successful, and the 1846 Royal Commission investigation into Metropolitan Railway Termini banned construction of new lines or stations in the built-up central area. The concept of an underground railway linking the City with the mainline termini was first proposed in the 1830s. Charles Pearson, Solicitor to the City, was a leading promoter of several schemes and in 1846 proposed a central railway station to be used by multiple railway companies. The scheme was rejected by the 1846 commission, but Pearson returned to the idea in 1852 when he helped set up the City Terminus Company to build a railway from Farringdon to King's Cross. The plan was supported by the City, but the railway companies were not interested and the company struggled to proceed.

The Metropolitan Railway (also known as the Met) was a passenger and goods railway that



Construction of the Metropolitan Railway close to King's Cross station in 1861

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served London from 1863 to 1933, its main line heading north-west from the capital's financial heart in the City to what were to become the Middlesex suburbs. Its first line connected the main-line railway termini at Paddington, Euston, and King's Cross to the City. The first section was built beneath the New Road using cut-and-cover between Paddington and King's Cross and in tunnel and cuttings beside Farringdon Road from King's Cross to near Smithfield, near the City. It opened to the public on 10 January 1863 with gas-lit wooden carriages hauled by steam locomotives, the world's first passenger-carrying designated underground railway.

English culture: The orchard-visiting Wassail:

In the cider-producing West of England (primarily the counties of Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire) wassailing also refers to drinking (and singing) the health of trees in the hopes that they might better thrive. An old rhyme goes:

Wassaile the trees, that they may beare

You many a Plum and many a Peare:

For more or lesse fruits they will bring,

As you do give them Wassailing.

The purpose of wassailing is to awake the cider apple trees and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the Autumn. The ceremonies of each wassail vary from village to village but they generally all have the same core elements. A wassail King and Queen lead the song and/or a processional tune to be played/sung from one orchard to the next, the wassail Queen will then be lifted up into the boughs of the tree where she will place toast soaked in Wassail from the Clayen Cup as a gift to the tree spirits (and to show the fruits created the previous year). Then an incantation is usually recited such as

Here's to thee, old apple tree,

That blooms well, bears well.

Hats full, caps full,

Three bushel bags full,

An' all under one tree.

Hurrah! Hurrah!

Then the assembled crowd will sing and shout and bang drums and pots & pans and generally make a terrible racket until the gunsmen give a great final volley through the branches to make sure the work is done and then off to the next orchard. Perhaps unbeknown to the general public, this ancient English tradition is still very much thriving today. The West Country is the most famous and largest cider producing region of the country and some of the most important wassails are held annually in Carhampton and Dunster (Somerset) and Whimble and Sandford (Devon), all on 17 January (old Twelfth Night).

Clevedon (North Somerset) holds an annual Wassailing event in the popularly attended Clevedon Community Orchard, combining the traditional elements of the festival with the entertainment and music of the Bristol Morris Men and their cantankerous Horse.

Private readings about people in Somerset in the 1800s revealed that inhabitants of Somerset practised the old Wassailing Ceremony, singing the following lyrics after drinking the cider until they were "merry and gay:"

Apple tree, apple tree, we all come to wassail thee,

Bear this year and next year to bloom and to blow,

Hat fulls, cap fulls, three cornered sack fills,

Hip, Hip, Hip, hurrah,

Holler biys, holler hurrah.

A folktale from Somerset reflecting this custom tells of the Apple Tree Man, the spirit of the oldest apple tree in an orchard, and in whom the fertility of the orchard is thought to reside. In the tale a man offers his last mug of mulled cider to the trees in his orchard and is rewarded by the Apple Tree Man who reveals to him the location of buried gold.



An apple sapling, hung with toast

English produce: Juniper

Juniper takes root for home-grown gin: Harry Shukman: The Times

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Naomi Joy planted 50 juniper saplings to reap berries for her gin. The success of artisanal gin means the juniper berry could be making a comeback in England.

Craft distillers have begun growing their own juniper, which gives the liquor its signature taste and smell. They have two aims in mind: to boast of their home-grown ingredients and to become self-sufficient.

Gin's popularity has risen sharply in recent years. According to a Wine and Spirit Trade Association report, 66 million bottles were sold in the UK last year, 19 million more than the year before.

Much of the juniper used in English gin is sourced in southeast Europe, where the climate is better suited to production.

The tree does not grow in abundance in England and has been suffering a decline, which the Woodland Trust attributes to browsing by deer and rabbits, and a disease called *phytophthora austrocedrae*.

Naomi Joy, 42, who makes Vicars gin in Worcestershire, has planted an experimental crop of 50 juniper saplings to use in her product when they start to bear fruit in three to five years. She said: "With any potential shortage of juniper because of Brexit, I just thought, 'Let's plant some of our own juniper.' There's a real thing at the moment for shopping locally. It could only add to our unique selling point."

Ben Marston, 46, the co-founder of Puddingstone Distillery, said that he planned to use juniper berries grown by the Box Moor Trust in Hertfordshire.

Beckett's Gin has used juniper berries picked from Box Hill in Surrey for the past five years.

Some gin makers are skeptical. Cicely Elliot-Berry, 23, of Sibling Distillery in Cheltenham, viewed it as "a large amount of effort for a small amount of reward".



Recipe: Cranberry gin fizz: By Sophie Godwin – Cookery writer

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cranberry-gin-fizz>

Prep: 10 mins **Cook:** 15 mins **Serves** 8

Ingredients:

150g caster sugar

300g fresh or frozen cranberries

200-400ml gin of your choice

1 orange, cut into slices

handful of ice cubes



Method:

STEP 1

Tip the sugar and 150ml water into a saucepan set over a low heat and heat until all the sugar has dissolved. Turn up the heat to medium-low and add the cranberries. Cook, stirring occasionally for 15 mins or until the cranberries have started to break down. Leave to cool, then blitz to a smooth purée using a hand blender, if you like (you can also leave it as is). *Will keep in a sterilised sealed jar in the fridge for up to a week.*

STEP 2

To serve, spoon 1 tbsp of the cranberry purée into each glass, stir in a single or double measure of the gin and top up with the soda water. Garnish each glass with an orange slice and add a few ice cubes. Alternatively, mix everything together in a jug and serve.

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