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

Think of England

Number 122: June 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: Ian Blackford says independent Scotland could keep sterling for years but what would be the bank of last resort? The bank of England, which might have to bail an independent Scotland out when it spent more than it



earned? I think that would be a repeat of what England was forced by Anne Stewart to do over three centuries ago. Moreover, Nicola Sturgeon faces begging Whitehall for extra funds after £3.5bn overspend. So although the UK government lavishes more on Scottish funding than the rest of Britain Sturgeon cannot manage.

“British wine becomes status symbol akin to French fizz”. In their eagerness to label all things English as British the ignorant Times’ journalists ignore the fact that British wine is specifically made with imported grapes. Wine made in England from English grown grapes is English. So Boris Johnson is to take direct control in Whitehall power-grab. Those will be the English only Departments. He has no direct remit to take that control. Moreover MP Jake Berry says “Where is our minister for the north, asks red wall”. Well where are the Ministers for England’s south, east and west, let alone anyone to speak for the whole of England?

The claim by critics that the real origins of the blackface makeup are the minstrel shows that were popular in the United States is based on their own racist assumptions and are devoid of historical evidence.

“Britain now has fewer hospital beds than all European Union nations apart from Sweden”. Is the Times conflating England with Britain?

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England and the rest of the UK:

Why England should leave the UK not persuading the others to stay

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-10831007>

By PETER HITCHENS FOR THE DAILY MAIL: 18 May 2022

What are we waiting for? All the other nations of the UK are set on tearing themselves away from England. I reckon that any party that puts an English secession from the UK in its general election manifesto will win a smashing majority. You could not call this 'independence' since England has never depended on the other countries in these islands. I would call it the Restoration of England, with relief to our ancient laws and liberties.

From a chosen day, England would once again be a sovereign nation in its own right — instead of the country that lives in millions of hearts, but is barely mentioned in official documents and is associated mainly in the minds of the world with football and cricket teams. It would be surprisingly easy, since so much of our government and law is already English, borrowed by others from us. No more will we have to speak of our country abroad as 'the Uokay', a weary set of initials that denies a thousand years of illustrious history and reduces them to a bureaucratic nothingness.

We have the laws of England. Our great founding documents, the Great Charter and the Bill of Rights, are English. We have the literature of England, a possession beyond price (did you ever hear anyone speak of 'British' literature?). We have a Queen of England. We have the Church of England. Many of our government ministries nowadays only operate in England.

We have no need to set up an 'English Parliament'. The Parliament at Westminster is English already, since the days of Simon de Montfort, and has simply given hospitality to others during the long adventure of the Union. By becoming wholly English again, it could recover much of its force and its purpose. We have been unconquered for almost a thousand years, sustained by an extraordinary civilisation based upon trust and the thirst for justice.



Ian Blackford says independent Scotland could keep sterling for years

John Boothman Saturday May 21 2022, 6.00pm, The Sunday Times

Ian Blackford, the leader of the SNP in Westminster, said that an independent Scotland may continue to use the pound to ensure stability. Ian Blackford's intervention, which is at odds with party conference delegates who have voted to rapidly introduce a new currency, follows long-standing concerns among voters over its currency policy.

Many rank and file nationalists believe the commitment to maintaining a formal currency union with the rest of the UK after independence cost the Yes side support in the 2014 referendum after the then chancellor George Osborne ruled it out.

Nicola Sturgeon faces begging Whitehall for extra funds after £3.5bn overspend

Daily Telegraph: Louis Ashworth 27 May 2022 • 11:16am

Nicola Sturgeon will be forced to beg Whitehall for further funding after the SNP pledged to overspend in Scotland by £640 per person, economists have said.

The Scottish Government's spending review on Tuesday is likely to show a £3.5bn black hole in its budget by 2026–27, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

David Phillips, the think tank's associate director, said the SNP is facing some "very tough decisions" unless the UK Government rides to its rescue with extra funding.

He said: "The Treasury would have to increase spending by over £40bn to bridge the Scottish Government's funding gap".

English Life:

British wine becomes status symbol akin to French fizz

Andrew Ellson, Consumer Affairs Correspondent Friday May 27 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The supermarket chain Sainsbury's says that sparkling English wine is a "status drink", with almost half of Britons believing it is just as good as anything the French can produce.

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The retailer's Summer Trends Report, 2022, says interest in domestic wine is growing, with searches on its website for brands such as Chapel Down and Ellercombe up 51 per cent on three years ago. A third of Sainsbury's customers consider drinking British fizz a status symbol, with 42 per cent believing it is just as respected as champagne.

Although the news is likely to raise a few eyebrows in France, it will be welcomed by the British wine industry, which harvests 2,500 hectares of grapes a year, mostly in the south.

Nyetimber, which is produced in West Sussex, retails at £25 to £30 a bottle and it is served in many up-market restaurants, although it still costs less than bottles of Moët or Veuve Clicquot, which retail at about £40 and £45 respectively.

Blackface clog dancers shake off controversy for May Day knees-up

Jonathan Ames Monday May 02 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The Britannia Coconut Dancers took part in traditional May Day celebrations and entertained crowds in Lancashire despite facing controversy over their blackface make-up.

The clog dancing troupe performed in front of the Crown Inn in the Lancashire village of Bacup, wearing costumes that resemble those of Morris dancers. Their outfits are meant to represent Moorish pirates, according to the troupe, which claims to date from the mid-19th century.

They feature a white, turban-style hat trimmed with either red or blue ribbon, alongside blue feathers and a rosette. The dancers, also known as the Nutters, wear black polo-neck jumpers and black velvet breeches with white knee-length socks. Instead of pirates' soft moccasins, they wear traditional iron-shod miners' clogs. Controversially, they all appear in blackface, with the troupe claiming this refers to both the Barbary pirate and mining origins of the celebrations.

Some critics, however, have claimed that the real origins of the blackface makeup are the minstrel shows that were popular in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in Britain in the first half of the 20th century. In 2020, the troupe was sacked from the Joint Morris Organisation, which represents 800 dance groups in England, for refusing to stop blackening their faces.

However, last year, the Bacup group received support from the Lancashire BME (black and minority ethnic) Network, which said it did not oppose the dancers blackening their faces because it had "never seen it as a racial thing".

Matters for an English Parliament: Boris Johnson takes direct control in Whitehall power-grab

Patrick Maguire, Red Box Editor Friday May 20 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The Cabinet Office is to be split, civil servants were told yesterday as Boris Johnson is to assume direct control of large parts of the machinery of government in a Whitehall power-grab that will effectively create a department for the PM.

In an unprecedented upheaval, the Cabinet Office is to be split so that officials responsible for implementing domestic policy across the civil service will answer directly to Downing Street for the first time.

The move, announced to civil servants yesterday, fulfils the prime minister's ambition to centralise responsibility for driving through economic, domestic and security policy in No 10.

Cabinet Office units responsible for economic, domestic, national security and intelligence policy — as well as staff who report at present to Simon Case, the cabinet secretary — will now answer directly to Samantha Jones, the new permanent secretary for No 10.

Case, Jones and Chisholm conceded that the reforms were partly a consequence of plans to cut the number of civil servants and responsibility for day-to-day fiscal decisions will remain firmly in the hands of the Treasury.



Where is our minister for the north, asks red wall MP Jake Berry

Geraldine Scott, Political Reporter Monday May 23 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Boris Johnson risks being thrown out of office by red wall voters at the next election, a leading Conservative MP has warned, as he said that the government had "gone backwards" in its promises for the north.

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Jake Berry, head of the Northern Research Group (NRG) of Tory MPs, said that northern voters would be “kingmakers” at the next election because the Tory party had undergone a “generational shift”. He said that the government had to find a way to balance the competing demands from the north and the south. Berry, who was the northern powerhouse minister in 2019-20, said that the 80-strong NRG had told him they “want that minister for the north” after his former responsibilities were taken in by Grant Shapps, the transport secretary.

Care scandal exposes carelessness of the state

Libby Purves Monday May 02 2022, 12.01am, The Times

A depressing picture was painted by this newspaper’s investigation into the Priory group’s repeated failures, and how official criticisms and demands for rapid improvement got nowhere much. It tells of suicidal patients able to abscond or left in rooms with known ligature points. In 11 cases over a decade, coroners have pointed to failures in care. Yet the Priory group gets £400 million a year from the NHS. It is wholly owned by a profitable Dutch private equity group.

NHS England has said it “will not tolerate service failures”, but year after year it seems to have to. As too often in cases where government entrusts core services to commercial companies, it finds itself almost toothless when they don’t do well. Privatisation and outsourcing are often touted to us as signs of energetic improvement, but it is time to go back and question this attitude, and especially to consider the usefulness of regulators.

We have heard the prime minister uttering that menacing threat to “privatise the arse off” the DVLA and the Passport Office. Yet while saying it he failed to notice not only the harrowing problems of the Priory’s private service to NHS patients but plenty of others. Take the case of the Passport Office: its present chaotic delays are actually mostly down to a private French company which runs its telephone service and an equally private American delivery firm which delivers the documents.

The prime minister might pause also to think about the parallel in the record of prisons run for profit: 47 per cent more violence has been recorded in private ones.

Adventurous business is good, capitalism is not all evil, but in areas when the taxpaying consumer has no choice — passports, driving licences, drinking water, prisons, health, social care — handing over practical responsibility to business investors is a solemn matter. Entrepreneurs naturally have a strong secondary motive: not just to fund dividends but usually to set ultra-high executive salaries. Meanwhile lowlier employees may be deeply responsible and delighted to be meeting public needs but they are units in a profitable business, not “servants of the Crown”. A phrase that was important to former generations.

Thus a government, or local authority, should always hesitate before entrusting to commerce a core public. Of course sometimes it works well, at least for a while. Water quality did improve in the early years, though bills also shot up by half. BT was definitely nippier than the old Post Office telephones. Privatised power utilities gave consumers competitive options, though once the system came under stress some collapsed. Sometimes the vainglory of commercial independence and increased top salaries can make a “freed” organisation plummet into disaster, as when Post Office leaders preferred for years to believe that hundreds of loyal postmasters had suddenly turned criminal, rather than admit their whizzy Fujitsu contractors were at fault.

The core problem is that privatisation and outsourcing need to go hand in hand with stringent, expensive and authoritative oversight. Nor are sanctions any good once you let someone get too rich to fail: Ofwat issued £21 million in penalties for environmental damage to water companies a couple of years ago, and the companies barely blinked.

Tougher regulation is needed of the broken children’s care home market

The Times Leading Articles Tuesday May 31 2022, 12.01am, The Times

The state of children’s care homes is arguably the most crisis-ridden and neglected part of the care system. In a government-commissioned report Josh MacAllister set out some sensible suggestions to tackle the crisis in children’s social care. But the independent investigation into children’s social care had less to say about what is arguably the most crisis-ridden and neglected part of the whole system: the state of children’s care homes.



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In the 1970s and 1980s the vast majority of care homes in Britain were owned and run by local councils and charities. Today the provision of care home places has been almost entirely outsourced to the private sector. A shortage of places nationally has obliged local councils to pay extraordinary rents, typically as much as £4,000 per week per child, rising to more than £10,000 for those with the most complex needs. Yet investigation shows that regulation of children's care homes is woefully inadequate, given the extraordinary responsibility entrusted in them to some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Ofsted, the school's regulator, is responsible for monitoring their standards of care, but there are no minimum standards of qualification for managers when they are appointed. And although directors of homes are required to be of "integrity and good standing", the regulator does not have the power to demand to see the criminal records of directors of care homes.

The investigation found numerous cases of inexperienced homeowners, including a man who had previously been convicted for drug smuggling, a cocktail bar owner, an electrician, a call centre expert, a taxi operator, a family of opticians, several property developers and a member of a religious group whose leader claims to be able to cure HIV and make the blind see. What's more, Ofsted uncovered one home where a boy had not bathed, changed his clothes or been given a home-cooked meal for four months, and another where children were not prevented from distributing cannabis or abusing an animal.

The MacAllister report is right to call for Ofsted to vet care home finances, given that many are deeply indebted. But the broader question is whether local councils should really be outsourcing something so fundamental to a civilised society as the care of its most vulnerable citizens to the for-profit sector in the first place.

'Lives at risk' in Britain's crumbling hospitals

Eleanor Hayward, Health Correspondent May 02 2022, The Times

Hundreds of vital NHS operations and appointments are being cancelled as a result of outdated infrastructure, undermining attempts by doctors to tackle record waiting lists.

Recent incidents include an unconscious patient on a ventilator being trapped in a broken lift for 35 minutes and power running out as a patient lay in an operating theatre.

Freedom of information requests sent to NHS trusts in England also revealed dozens of cases of ceilings collapsing at hospitals over the past three years. These include a "massive leak" of roof water into a unit for newborn babies, and water pouring through the ceiling on to bodies in a hospital mortuary. Poor temperature control means some patients have had to "sleep in hats and gloves" on wards. A five-hour power cut at the Royal London Hospital in east London led to the cancellation of operations including two lifesaving kidney transplants, and meant women giving birth had to be transferred to different maternity units in the backs of taxis. Hospitals have also recorded hundreds of rat and pest infestations, and some rooms containing patients have been left "overflowing with raw sewage". Other examples are: "Complete loss of water supply to hospital . . . there is no drinking water on the ward for the patients." Great Western Hospital, March 2022; "Staff toilet continually blocking due to inadequate old pipework beneath . . . Only one toilet now available for busy ICU."

Jeremy Hunt, the former health secretary, said the findings were "deeply concerning" and the failure to invest in infrastructure would jeopardise attempts to tackle record NHS waiting lists through the new health and social care levy.

Recent analysis by the Health Foundation think tank found that the UK would have to double capital spending on the NHS to meet the average for other OECD nations.



1820 Engraving of Guy's Hospital in London

Planning revamp to give locals a say on look of housing developments

Oliver Wright, Policy Editor Monday May 09 2022, 12.01am, The Times

Ministers will promise this week to end the "free for all" enjoyed by big developers by curtailing their powers and giving residents the right to dictate the style of any new development.

In an attempt to assuage anger, the government will pledge to consult local residents on "design codes" that will stipulate the standards that developments must meet.

Ministers will also examine how the planning inspectorate enforces local housing need targets. Areas that

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are constrained by greenbelt land or areas of natural beauty will no longer be expected to reach “unrealistic” targets if they can produce a plan that is “well evidenced and drawn up in good faith”. The planning system will also gain a fast-track application category for small builders that will exempt them from certain planning fees to “level the playing field” with big developers.

Neighbours get the right to vote on housing plans

Chris Smyth, Whitehall Editor | Oliver Wright, Policy Editor | Steven Swinford, Political Editor: May 11 2022, The Times

New laws will permit “street votes” on whether more loft conversions and conservatories can be built without full planning permission. Ministers hope this will encourage more intensive development by allowing residents to increase the value of their own homes.

A raid on big developers’ profits to fund schools, roads and surgeries will hopefully encourage residents to agree to more local housebuilding, as ministers look for ways to minimise objections to new homes.

The Levelling Up Bill could allow councils to buy off objections to development through funding infrastructure such as schools, roads and GP clinics. Local authorities will be expected to build more council houses as affordable homes requirements on new developments are dropped.

Up to a quarter of the levy will be set aside for town and parish council and other hyper-local priorities. The exact level of the levy will be set locally, with councils able to encourage more brownfield development by imposing a lower level than on greenfield land.



Smart motorways given green light after bosses turned 'blind eye' to safety fears

Daily Telegraph: Steve Bird 21 May 2022 • 9:00pm

Smart motorways were given the go-ahead because National Highways bosses turned a “blind eye” to safety fears, a whistleblower has claimed as he released a dossier of classified documents.

A senior engineer has said the Government-owned company responsible for turning hard shoulders into live lanes suffered a “systemic cultural failure” when told of staff concerns over safety.

The whistleblower handed files from 2012 onwards to The Telegraph to illustrate how staff lodged safety warnings while other documents show how smart motorways could cut costs while increasing road capacity. One leaked document warns how scrapping the hard shoulder could hamper emergency services’ efforts to reach life and death crashes.

The dossier shows how avoiding costly “land grabs” encouraged ministers to approve smart motorways.

The whistleblower, whose identity cannot be disclosed said staff - “from top to toe” - raised “red card” warnings about smart motorways, including an increase in live lane collisions and the inadequate spacing of emergency refuge areas.

“These concerns were logged in the design and before opening concept phases,” he said.

“Now they have realised they were in error and had to retrospectively fit things like emergency refuges closer together the project has cost many more millions of pounds,” he added.

National Highways data released earlier this month showed smart motorways without a hard shoulder are three times more deadly to break down on than those with the safety lane. While stopped vehicle detection technology is spotting 1,000 emergency incidents a month, as many as 100 over the same period are being missed.

National Highways is adamant that when the overall data is analysed smart motorways are proven England’s safest roads.

Governing England:

Committees: UK Parliament: Business Committees

Education Committee

Government must act on 'ghost children' missing from education system

25 May 2022: In March, cross-party MPs warned of an 'epidemic' of educational inequality exacerbated by the loss of learning caused by covid-19 lockdowns. The Education Select Committee's Report, Is the Catch-up Programme fit for purpose?, called on the Government to prove its multi-million pound pandemic Catch-Up Programme was working, or else cancel its contract with tutoring provider Randstad.

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The Committee strongly welcomes the Government's actions which include ending its contract with Randstad, simplifying and allowing schools more autonomy over funding routes, and undertaking a review of the impact of Covid-19 on SEND pupils. However, the Report's warnings about persistent and severe absence have not been fully addressed. Despite calls from the Committee for 'proactive measures' to help children back to school, the Government's response does not yet commit to a targeted support plan. Recommendations to introduce mental health and wellbeing assessments for schoolchildren were also rejected.



Education Committee to scrutinise the Government's SEND Review

20 May 2022: The Education Committee will hold an evidence session examining the strengths and weaknesses of the recently published special educational needs and disability (SEND) Review

The SEND Review evaluates the current SEND system and the reforms introduced in 2014. It also outlines proposals for changes to both the SEND and alternative provision system in England.

This session will focus on the former set of proposals. With the SEND Review identifying the "adversarial" nature of the SEND system, and that disadvantaged children have more challenges accessing support, the Committee is likely to examine whether the Government's proposals will help to make the system more collaborative and level the playing field.

MPs are also expected to ask whether the SEND Review's proposals to set national standards do enough to end the "postcode lottery" of SEND provision. The Committee may also discuss recommendations made in the Education Committee's 2019 report on SEND provision, such as extending the powers of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, which have not been included in the SEND Review.

Health and Social Care Committee

MPs to examine challenges to high street dentistry in workforce inquiry

20 May 2022: The British Dental Association is one of a number of health professional bodies that will appear before MPs examining challenges facing the workforce in their inquiry into recruitment, training and retention. Representatives from the nursing, midwifery and pharmacy sectors will also give evidence. With a fall in the number of dentists working with the NHS and evidence that overall numbers are at their lowest level for eight years, MPs are likely to consider the system of targets in the dentistry contract as well as levels of recruitment and retention. The Committee will also consider the workforce challenges facing social care and is expected to raise questions about the impact on standards of care with the Chief Executive of the Care Quality Commission and with the Local Government Association. The role of employers and national policy makers in dealing with the challenges posed, direction on training numbers, and the types of training offered are also expected to be explored.

Evidence to the Committee has cited poor workforce planning, weak policy and fragmented responsibilities as contributing to a workforce crisis, exacerbated by the lack of a national NHS workforce strategy. It has been estimated that by 2030/31, up to almost half a million extra health care staff would be needed to meet the pressures of demand and recover from the pandemic – the equivalent of a 40% increase in the workforce.

MPs to examine benefits offered by continuity of care for patients and GPs

13 May 2022: The benefits offered by continuity of care between GPs and patients will be examined in the second session of the Committee's inquiry into the future of general practice. MPs will consider the outcomes of a major Norwegian study which found reductions in mortality risks among the benefits.

Questions are also likely on the operation of a 'personal list system', particularly across larger partnership models, and how NHS England should improve continuity of care. Other factors such as the impact on staff morale and higher job satisfaction are also likely to be explored.

The first session of the inquiry considered the drain of experienced GPs from practices due to pressures of workload and poor job satisfaction.

Last year more than 50% of GPs reported they were 'struggling' and regularly felt unable to cope with workloads. A survey for the General Medical Council found that nearly a third of GPs were likely to leave general practice in the coming year while a BMA survey found two-thirds of GPs over the age of 55 sug-

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gested they were intending to retire within three years.



Parliamentary Bills

Committee stage

Schools Bill [HL]: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2022-23

A Bill To Make provision for the regulation of Academies; about school and local education funding; about the attendance of children at school; about the regulation of independent educational institutions; about teacher misconduct; and for connected purposes

Report stage

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2021-22, 2022-23

A Bill to make provision in relation to freedom of speech and academic freedom in higher education institutions and in students' unions; and for connected purposes.

Royal Assent

Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022

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.

Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22

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

Health and Care Act 2022: Government Bill: Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22

A Bill to make provision about health and social care.

Fallen awaiting second reading

House of Lords (Retirement Age) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill): Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22

A Bill to introduce a retirement age of 75 for members of the House of Lords; and for connected purposes.

House of Lords (Elected Senate) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill): Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22

A Bill to replace the House of Lords with an elected senate; and for connected purposes.

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) (Abolition of By-Elections) (No. 2) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill): Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22

A Bill to amend the House of Lords Act 1999 so as to abolish the system of by-elections for hereditary peers.

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill: Private Members' Bill (Presentation Bill)

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22

A Bill to require the Chancellor of the Exchequer to report to Parliament on proposals to replace the Barnett Formula used to calculate adjustments to public expenditure allocated to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with a statutory scheme for the allocation of resources based on an assessment of relative needs; and for connected purposes.

Fell awaiting first reading

Constitutional Convention Bill [HL]: Private Members' Bill (Starting in the House of Lords) Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22

A Bill to make provision for a convention to consider the constitution of the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes

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UK Statutory Instruments (Regulations for the application of UK law)

The Regulations below extend to England and Wales.

The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) (Business Lease Notices) Regulations 2022 No. 578 Regulation I

The Sentencing Act 2020 (Surcharge) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 584 Regulation I

The Prohibition of Cross-Examination in Person (Civil and Family Proceedings) Regulations 2022 No. 568

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme (England and Wales) Regulations 2022 No. 565

The Prohibition of Cross-Examination in Person (Fees of Court-Appointed Qualified Legal Representatives) Regulations 2022 No. 567 Regulation I

The Special Measures in Civil Proceedings (Specified Offences) Regulations 2022 No. 562 Regulation I

The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (Commencement No. 24) Order 2022 No. 536 (C. 25)

The Special Constables (Membership of the Police Federation etc.) (England and Wales) Regulations 2022 No. 505

The Regulations below extend to England only.

The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Representations and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 576

The Novel Foods (Authorisations) and Smoke Flavourings (Modification of Authorisations) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 560

The Electricity (Individual Exemption from the Requirement for a Transmission Licence) (East Anglia One) (England) Order 2022

The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 No. 547

The Fire Safety Act 2021 (Commencement) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 544 (C. 26)

The Food and Feed (Fukushima Restrictions) (Revocation) (England) Regulations 2022 No. 543

The Protection of Wrecks (Designation and Amendment) (England) Order 2022 No. 535

The National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 No. 532

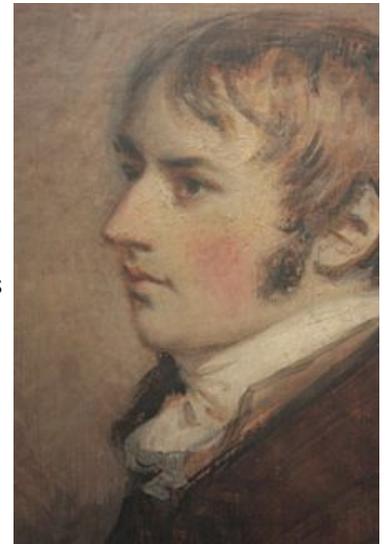
The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Amendment) (England) Order 2022 No. 521

England's hero: John Constable

John Constable by Daniel Gardner, 1796

John Constable RA (11 June 1776 – 31 March 1837) was an English landscape painter in the Romantic tradition. Born in Suffolk, he is known principally for revolutionising the genre of landscape painting with his pictures of Dedham Vale, the area surrounding his home – now known as "Constable Country" – which he invested with an intensity of affection. "I should paint my own places best", he wrote to his friend John Fisher in 1821, "painting is but another word for feeling".

Constable's most famous paintings include Wivenhoe Park (1816), Dedham Vale (1821) and The Hay Wain (1821). Although his paintings are now among the most popular and valuable in British art, he was never financially successful. He became a member of the establishment after he was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts at the age of 52. His work was embraced in France, where he sold more than in his native England and inspired the Barbizon school.



England's history: Battle of Sluys

The Battle of Sluys, also called the Battle of l'Écluse, was a naval battle fought on 24 June 1340 between England and France. It took place in the roadstead of the port of Sluys (French Écluse), on a since silted-up inlet between Zeeland and West Flanders. The English fleet of 120–150 ships was led by Edward III of England and the 230-strong French fleet by the Breton knight Hugues Quiéret, Admiral of France, and Nicolas Béhuchet, Constable of France. The battle was one of the opening engagements of the Hundred Years' War.

Edward sailed from the River Orwell on 22 June and encountered the French blocking his way to Sluys

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harbour. The French had bound their ships into three lines, forming large floating fighting platforms. The English fleet spent some time manoeuvring to gain the advantage of wind and tide. During this delay the French ships were driven to the east of their starting positions and became entangled with each other. Béhuchet and Quiéret ordered the ships to be separated and the fleet attempted to move back to the west, against the wind and the tide. While the French were in this disorganised state, the English attacked.

The English were able to manoeuvre against the French and defeat them in detail, capturing most of their ships. The French lost 16,000–20,000 men. The battle gave the English fleet naval supremacy in the English Channel. However, they were unable to take strategic advantage of this, and their success barely interrupted French raids on English territories and shipping. Operationally, the battle allowed the English army to land and to then besiege the French town of Tournai, albeit unsuccessfully.



A miniature of the battle from Jean Froissart's Chronicles, 15th century

English culture: Rush bearing/Hay Strewing.

Rushbearing/Hay Strewing: Formerly of practical significance when most churches had dirt floors, being handy places for burials, on which for warmth and to keep the mud at bay rushes, dried grass, and at least where the gentry were found flowers and herbs would be strewn, usually just once a year. The provision of these rushes became an important duty, with monies left or even land bequeathed by worshippers in order to supply them. It has become a symbol of community and continuity with our past and still goes on in various towns and villages in the North, especially Cumbria. The ceremonies which evolved are still observed in a few churches and normally take place on the day of the patron saint of the church.

Warcop, St Columba Church, Cumbria; On St Peter's Day, the 29th June each year is the traditional rushbearing festival when a local band leads a procession of girls wearing floral crowns, boys carrying rush crosses, and adults, from the reading room through the village to the Church.

Ambleside; The procession begins from the local primary school at around 2.30, winding its route around the settlement until the participants arrive at the market square. Here the rushes are raised in the air - for the many children involved perhaps a handful of rushes with a few flowers, but for some adults 'burdens', or 'bearings' which are more elaborate and weighty designs, some using wooden frames covered with posies and interwoven grasses. After the raising a special hymn written by the Rev Owen Lloyd in 1835 is sung by the procession and onlookers alike if they know the words. Some three quarters of an hour after the walk began it ends at St Mary's Church, where a brief ceremony is held before getting on to more important matters - certainly in the eyes of the young children - namely the gift of a piece of proper locally made gingerbread. After the church service there are sports and games for youngsters at the local playing field. A Contact the council on 0871 716 2648

Barrowden, Leicestershire: 28th June. At Barrowden reeds are gathered in the church meadow on the eve of St Peter's Day and placed on the church floor.

Wingrave, Buckinghamshire; First Sunday after the 29th of the month. Records of this custom go back to 1798, when a small piece of land was "left for the purpose of furnishing rushes for the church on Feast Sunday". From the 1830's, hay was being used to strew or cover the church floor rather than rushes



A rushbearing procession at Long Millgate, Manchester painted by Alexander Wilson, 1821

English produce: Broccoli

Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* var. *italica*) is an edible green plant in the cabbage family (family Brassicaceae, genus *Brassica*) whose large flowering head, stalk and small associated leaves are eaten as a vegetable either raw or cooked. Broccoli has large flower heads, usually dark green, arranged in a tree-like structure branching out from a thick stalk which is usually light green. The mass of flower heads is surrounded by leaves. Broccoli resembles cauliflower, which is a different but closely related cultivar group of the

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same Brassica species.

Broccoli resulted from breeding of landrace Brassica crops in the northern Mediterranean starting in about the sixth century BC. Broccoli has its origins in primitive cultivars grown in the Roman Empire and was most likely improved via artificial selection in the southern Italian Peninsula or in Sicily. Broccoli was spread to northern Europe by the 18th century.

The word broccoli comes from the Italian plural of broccolo, which means "the flowering crest of a cabbage", and is the diminutive form of brocco, meaning "small nail" or "sprout".

There are three commonly grown types of broccoli. The most

familiar is Calabrese broccoli, often referred to simply as "broccoli", named after Calabria in Italy. It has large (10 -to 20-cm) green heads and thick stalks. It is a cool-season annual crop. Sprouting broccoli (white or purple) has a larger number of heads with many thin stalks. Purple cauliflower or Violet Cauliflower is a type of broccoli grown in Europe. It has a head shaped like cauliflower but consisting of many tiny flower buds. It sometimes, but not always, has a purple cast to the tips of the flower buds. Purple cauliflower may also be white, red, green, or other colors

The majority of broccoli cultivars are cool-weather crops that do poorly in hot summer weather. Broccoli grows best when exposed to an average daily temperature between 18 and 23 C (64 and 73 °F). When the cluster of flowers, also referred to as a "head" of broccoli, appear in the center of the plant, the cluster is generally green. Garden pruners or shears are used to cut the head about 25 mm (1 in) from the tip. Broccoli should be harvested before the flowers on the head bloom bright yellow.

In England production is in East Anglia, Cornwall, Warwickshire, Kent, Essex, Bedfordshire



Recipe: Broccoli Salad

Ingredients

½ cup sugar

1 cup mayonnaise

½ cup sunflower seeds

one red or sweet onion, chopped

one apple, chopped (optional)

dash of cider vinegar or lemon juice

7 to 8 cups broccoli florets. Two

bunches of broccoli supplies

enough florets. If not, then add

stems and stalk (peeled and chopped finely).

for each cup of broccoli, one slice of crisp fried bacon

1 cup raisins, plumped in boiling water



Method:

Whisk mayonnaise, sugar, and vinegar or lemon juice. Mix remaining ingredients and combine completely in a large bowl. Cover. Cool in the refrigerator overnight before serving.

May be served with additional sunflower seeds sprinkled over the top.

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