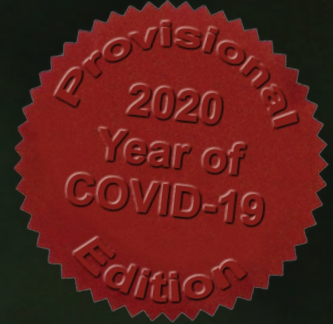


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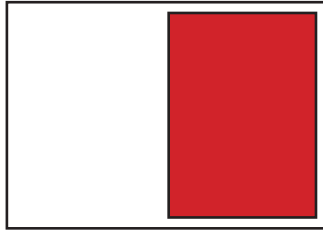
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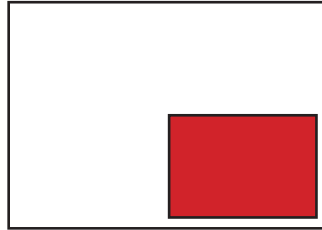
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News Roundup

and sports

Summary of the main news and sports events over the last three months

By Paul G Bazeley for Government World

April News Review

Coronavirus in the UK:

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson was taken to hospital, admitted to intensive care and given oxygen to help him breathe after testing positive for COVID-19. He was released from the hospital later in the month. The Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab took over from the PM's duties while he was recovering.
- The Queen addressed the nation in light of the pandemic. It was only the fifth time she had given an address in her 68-year reign. Queen Elizabeth II thanked the nation for their resilience and the world for its unity in coping with the pandemic.
- The government extended the lockdown for a further three weeks.
- A five-year-old boy died of COVID-19, becoming the youngest person in Europe to die of the disease. He had underlying health issues.
- Several 5G telecommunications masts were set on fire after a conspiracy theory

went around social media claiming 5G was spreading coronavirus.

- The department store Debenhams filed for administration due to 'unprecedented' circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- The UK became the fifth country whose death toll passed 20,000. The US, Italy, Spain and France were the other four.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the world surpassed three million.

The United States passed Italy to become the country with the highest coronavirus death toll in the world. The US accounted for more than a third of the worldwide cases after the country surpassed one million cases.

One World: Together at Home, an eight-hour concert organised by the World Health Organisation and Lady Gaga raised \$127million. The concert saw performances by Sir Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones

and Billie Eilish as well as messages from public figures such as Michelle Obama. The money raised is to be split between the World Health Organisation and coronavirus relief charities.

Sir Paul McCartney's handwritten copy of The Beatles' 'Hey Jude' sold in a virtual auction for \$910,000, which was almost six times its estimated value.

April Sports Review

The Tour De France was delayed until August 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Norman Hunter, the former England international and Leeds United footballer died aged 76 from COVID-19.

France ended the Ligue 1 season early and awarded Paris St-Germain the league title, their ninth Ligue 1 title. Toulouse FC and Amiens SC were relegated to Ligue 2.

May News Review

In UK Coronavirus news:

- The UK surpassed Italy to have the highest death toll from COVID-19 in Europe.
- On the 10th May PM Boris Johnson began to relax some of the lockdown rules. He urged people to go to work if they could not work from home, avoid public transport if possible, allowed unlimited outdoor exercise and allowed driving to outdoor destinations in England.
- The devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland did not follow the Prime Ministers relaxation and kept their own lockdown 'rules'.
- On the 11th May a new COVID alert level system was announced along with a recovery strategy outlining how the UK will ease lockdown measures.

Dominic Cummings, the Prime Ministers adviser, was heavily criticised after allegedly breaking lockdown rules earlier in the pandemic. Mr Cummings denies the allegations and is said to have driven from

London to Durham to stop on his parent's farmland after he began to show symptoms of coronavirus and was worried who would look after his four-year-old if he and his wife became ill. Upon returning to London he is then said to have driven to Barnard Castle (30 miles away) to check his eyesight as his wife was worried the disease had affected his eyes, they then returned the next day. The statements were met with scepticism as the Barnard Castle journey fell on his wife's birthday. Durham Police said no offence had occurred on his journey after an investigation. Calls for the adviser to step down or be fired were voiced across a range of political parties, however, Prime Minister Boris Johnson continued to show his support and keep Mr Cummings in his roll.

The worldwide death toll for coronavirus exceeded 300,000. The number of worldwide cases surpassed five million.

George Floyd, an African-American, died after being restrained by police officers in Minnesota, the United States for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. Videos emerged showing Floyd saying 'I can't breathe' as officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for 8 minutes while he was handcuffed, lying on the floor and further restrained by two other officers. The death sparked protests across

the world against racism, police brutality and police accountability. In America, riots and looting took place across several states, in some cases buildings were set on fire. All the police officers were fired and are charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder, except Chauvin who is charged with second-degree murder.

SpaceX launched Crew Dragon which successfully carried two astronauts to the International Space Station. It was the first-ever crewed commercial space flight and the first to launch American astronauts into orbit since the end of the Space Shuttle program in 2011.

Reuters won the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography for its coverage of the Hong Kong protests.

May Sports Review

The German Bundesliga resumed its football games behind closed doors in a bid to continue and finish the 19/20 season.

June News Review

UK Coronavirus news:

- The Covid-19 death toll surpassed 40,000. The figure includes anybody any deaths where the person had a positive Covid-19 test result within 28 days of death.
- It was announced that places of worship could reopen for individual prayer.
- Travelers coming into the UK were required to quarantine for 14 days.
- Non-essential retailers could reopen during the middle of the month.
- Leicester saw lockdown measures reintroduced after a spike in coronavirus cases.

A Covid-19 study conducted by Harvard University suggested that the virus may have been spreading in China as early as August 2019. Meanwhile, the number of worldwide cases of coronavirus surpassed seven million.

A statue of Edward Colston, a slave trader, was pulled down by Black Lives Matter demonstrators and thrown into Bristol Harbour. The statue of Colston, who made his wealth through slave trading and was a philanthropist, had been a sore point for many in the city. A few days later Sadiq Khan, the London Mayor, established the Commission

for Diversity in the Public Realm to review statues in London. A statue of Robert Milligan, a known slave trader, which stood outside the Museum of London Docklands was removed. Demonstrators also graffitied the statue of Sir Winston Churchill which stands in Parliament Square.

Intu Properties fell into administration. The shopping centre owner which own the Trafford Centre in Manchester, Lakeside in Essex and Victoria Centre in Nottingham stated that the shopping centres will continue to trade despite the news. The firm had struggled with a £4.5bn debt and the Covid-19 crisis saw lower rent payments saw the group collapse.

Brazil surpassed Italy to become the third-highest country of Covid-19 deaths after the US and the UK.

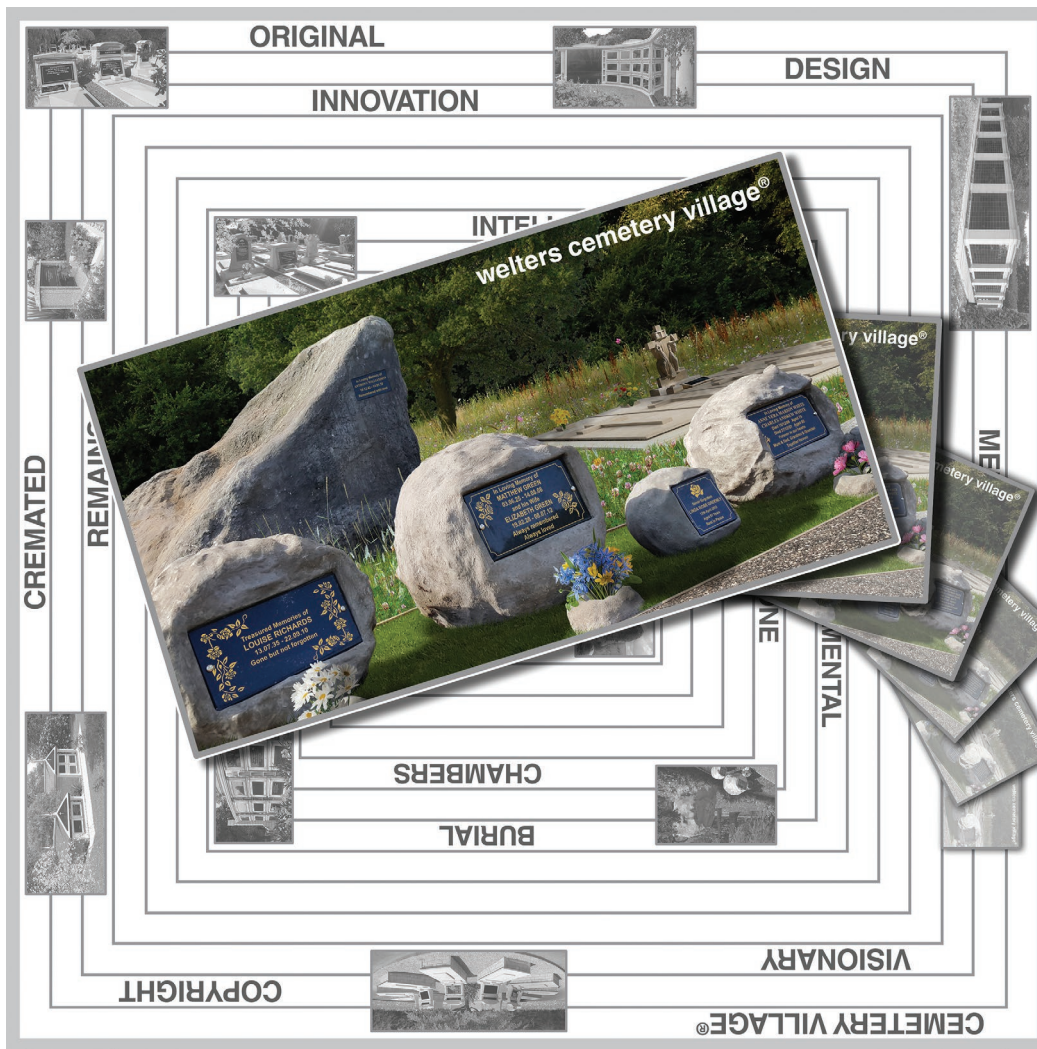
SpaceX launched and deployed 60 Starlink satellites into a low Earth orbit. The launch was part of plans to build a 12,000 strong constellation of satellites to provide high-speed internet around the world. Elon Musk, founder and CEO, said at least 400 satellites are needed to provide minimal internet coverage and 800 are needed for moderate coverage.

China removed Pangolin scales from its 2020 list of approved ingredients used in traditional Chinese medicine. Pangolins were in the spotlight after studies suggested they may have been the host of Covid-19 and transmitted to humans. The animals are the most trafficked animal and are highly sought after in China and Vietnam where the meat is considered a delicacy and the scales are used in medicine.

June Sports Review

Project Restart saw British football return after a hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The restart happened with no fans allowed in stadiums and some strict guidelines to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Liverpool were crowned Premier League champions for the first time after Man City lost 2-1 to Chelsea. It meant the Reds won the title with seven games to spare, beating the record previously held by Man Utd and Man City. It had been 30 years since Liverpool had won the top-flight title.

End



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National Living Wage increase raises income of low-paid workers

April

The National Living Wage (NLW) will increase on Wednesday 1 April to £8.72, giving a pay rise to thousands of workers at the frontline of the UK's response to Covid-19. This rise follows recommendations made to the Government by the Low Pay Commission (LPC) in the autumn. It means the rate reaches the target of 60 per cent of median earnings, originally set by the Government in 2015.

In the 11 March Budget, the Government confirmed its ambition for the NLW to continue increasing towards a new target of two-thirds of median earnings by 2024. It asked the LPC to advise on whether the economic evidence warranted these increases. The LPC will make its recommendations to Government on the 2021 National Minimum Wage rates in October.

Bryan Sanderson, Chair of the Low Pay Commission, said:

“Many of the nation's key workers – in, for example, the care sector, agriculture,

transport and retail – are low-paid, are continuing to work in very difficult conditions and will benefit from today's increase. At the same time, the Government has introduced a comprehensive package of support for employers to lessen the impacts of these extraordinary circumstances.

Under our new remit, the Government asks us to monitor the labour market and the impacts of the National Living Wage closely, advise on any emerging risks and - if the economic evidence warrants it – recommend that the government



reviews its target or timeframe. This is what the Government refers to as the ‘emergency brake’. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic clearly represents a very challenging set of circumstances for workers and employers alike, and will require us to review whether the emergency brake is required when we next provide our advice to the Government. This advice will be crucially dependent as always on the economic data we receive.”

The LPC has published a short report looking at the NLW's path to the 60 per cent target and outlining how we will approach the new two-thirds target. This report does not set out a pathway to the new target, given the uncertainty over the current and future state of the labour market.

The other rates of the National Minimum Wage will also increase alongside the NLW.

UK medicines and medical devices regulator investigating 14 cases of fake or unlicensed COVID-19 medical products

April

These include self-testing kits, 'miracle cures', 'antiviral misting sprays', and unlicensed medicines.

At this time, there are currently no medicines licensed specifically for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 and there are no CE marked self-testing kits approved for home use.

The MHRA has disabled 9 domain names and social media accounts selling fake or unauthorised COVID-19 products.

Lynda Scammell, MHRA Enforcement Official said:

"Don't be fooled by online offers for medical products to help prevent or treat COVID-19

There is no medicine licensed specifically to treat or prevent COVID-19, therefore any claiming to do so are not authorised and have not undergone regulatory approvals required for sale on the UK market. We cannot guarantee the safety or quality of the product and this poses a risk to your health.

The risk of buying medicines and medical devices from unregulated websites are that you just don't know what you will receive and could be putting your health at risk.

We are working alongside other law enforcement agencies to combat this type of criminal activity."

This advice is part of the MHRA's ongoing #FakeMeds campaign which aims to encourage people who buy medical products online to make sure they are purchasing from legitimate sources.

To stay safe when buying medicines and medical devices online, the MHRA advises that you purchase from a registered pharmacy – either from the premises or online. Registered online suppliers can be found here. If people suspect they have a dodgy medicine or medical device they can report it via our safety monitoring system - the Yellow Card Scheme.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau is

also seeing reports from victims who have lost money when they have tried to purchase PPE or self-testing kits online, from fraudulent websites, that simply do not exist. If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud or by calling 0300 123 2040.





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Winter Edition of Government World

Artistic development for forthcoming Winter edition of Government World shows a robin which frequently attends our personnel while staying in London.

Social media post

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Government WORLD™
Winter 2019 Edition

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Light Pollution

by Paul Bazeley

In the next instalment about environmental issues, we will be looking at light pollution discussing what it is, its effects and what can be done about it.

Light pollution is the brightening of dark conditions by artificial sources, the term can be used for an indoor setting but is usually related to the presence of unnatural light in the night sky. The consequences of light pollution include washing out starlight, disrupting ecosystems, interfering with astronomical research, compromising health and wasted energy.

In 1879, Thomas Edison invented the first incandescent light bulb and changed the world forever. Over the next

40 years frosted light bulbs, adjustable power beam bulbs for car headlamps, neon lighting, photography flashbulbs and even fluorescent tanning lamps were created. Fast forward to 2020 and lights are everywhere. With over half of the world's population living in a city and studies suggesting that 3 out of every 4 people in a city have never properly experienced a pristinely dark sky it is easy to see why light pollution



seems to be placed on the back burner when pollution is mentioned.

While light pollution may not seem like such an issue as air, water and soil pollution it is a chronic problem. A 2016 study led scientists to estimate that 99 per cent of continental Europe and the United States experiences light pollution. Another study in 2017 suggested that light pollution increased by 2 per cent each year between 2012 and 2016. Observations from the Suomi NPP satellite approximated that a third of humans cannot see the Milky Way. When an



earthquake caused a power outage in Los Angeles in 1994 emergency centres and an observatory was called to report a strange-looking cloud, it was, in fact, the Milky Way which was usually not visible due to the city lights.

Artificial light increasingly shines into our night sky where it is scattered by air molecules, aerosols and moisture into the atmosphere which causes

the night sky to become an orange colour, a phenomenon known as 'sky glow'. According to the World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness, 80 per cent of the world population lives with sky glow. This has a tremendous effect on both personal and scientific astronomers.

Although artificial light has a serious impact on astronomers and causes

issues for scientific research, it is not the only issue caused by light pollution. The amount of lights used across the globe uses a huge amount of energy, research suggests lighting is responsible for a quarter of electricity consumption worldwide. While it is hard to pinpoint a figure on how much of this lighting is not needed or could be reduced, there is no doubt that there is energy wasted due to lighting this leads to a higher cost and a larger carbon footprint.

For wildlife, light pollution is having a significant impact. Many animals have had their patterns disrupted now that the natural diurnal patterns of light and dark are no longer prevalent. The influence of light pollution is severely affecting ecosystems, it is disrupting plant and animal physiology, drastically impacting nocturnal



wildlife, confusing migratory patterns, altering predator-prey interactions and causing physiological harm.

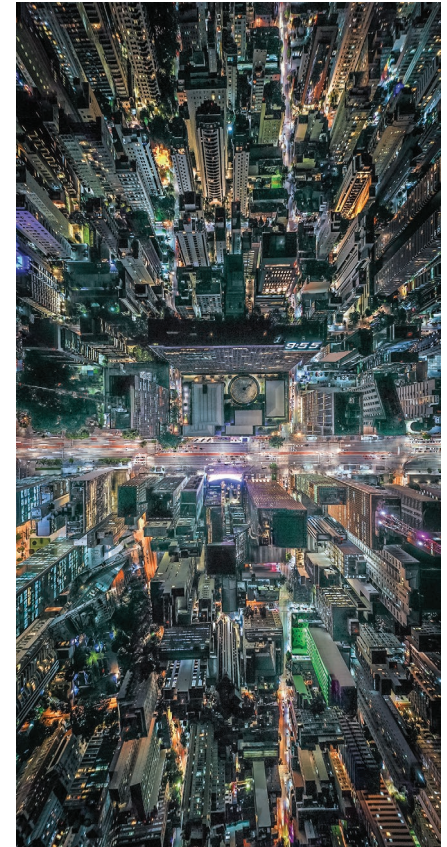
The impact light pollution has on wildlife was brought to public attention on the BBC documentary Planet Earth 2 where it showed the impact on sea turtles hatchlings. They hatch on a beach at night and use the bright

horizon over the ocean to find their way to the sea, however, artificial light from cities can draw them the wrong way. Research has found that in Florida alone, millions of hatchlings die every year due to this issue.

Some research scientists also believe we may have problems with the population of species over the next decade due to the change in predator-prey interactions. Prey use darkness as a cover and predators use the light to hunt, however, the night time is now severely disrupted in many areas due to artificial light leading to predators having more time to hunt and the prey less time to hide. Christopher Kyba, a nocturnal animal research scientist believes 'we are only beginning to learn what a drastic effect this has had on nocturnal ecology'. It seems that although we know some of the damage light pollution is causing to wildlife, we may only be scratching the surface in terms of the repercussions.

Light pollution has also been linked to a

range of adverse health effects. As humans, we are dependent on circadian rhythms and the production of melatonin which helps us sleep. The exposure





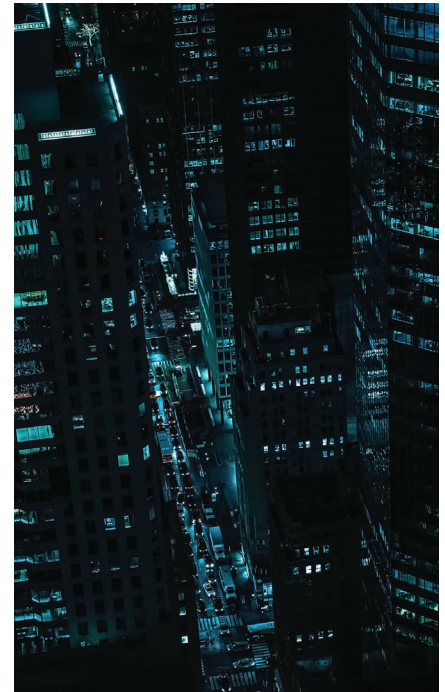
to light when it should be dark suppresses melatonin production and can lead to sleep disorders. This can increase the likelihood of other health problems such as headaches, fatigue, stress, obesity and anxiety. Several studies have also linked disruption to our circadian rhythms and low melatonin levels to heart disease, depression, diabetes and cancer. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared shift work a risk factor for cancer due to its impact on circadian biology.

In terms of solutions, there are things each of us can do. Turning off lights when they are not needed is an

obvious one but the best thing we can all do and while we are at it changing the light bulbs to energy-efficient ones will decrease your bills and reduce energy wastage. Other options include placing motion sensors on outdoor lights so they only come on when needed, ensuring outdoor lights have low-glare fixtures and closing curtains or blinds to keep the light inside, this is especially important if you live in an apartment building as it will help to reduce birds colliding with the building.

Even though these things will help, it is obvious that more needs to be done to reduce light pollution. Artificial light from cities can cause light pollution miles away, a satellite image over Las Vegas showed the light was affecting the sky over 40 miles away. It is also strongly believed the light in satellite images is under-represented as satellites cannot currently detect blue-white light. Light pollution is becoming an ever-increasing issue and although there are small steps we can take to reduce it, there are significant

changes that need to happen, particularly in cities. Currently, we do not seem to fully realise the damage light pollution can cause and we are still finding new issues due to its impact. Until there are some changes and more solutions are thought of the future seems, well, bright.

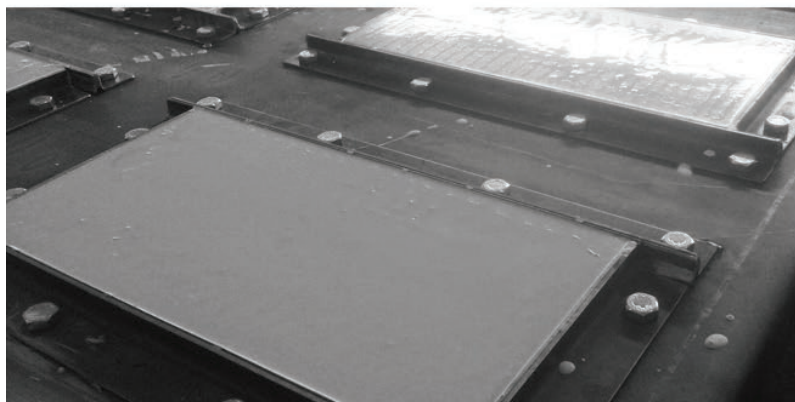
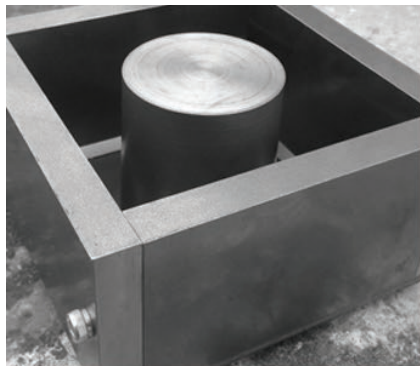


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Social media post



Grant funding provided to businesses by local authorities in England

April

As part of the government's coronavirus business support package, the UK government has distributed £12.3 billion to local authorities in England.

As of 19 April 2020, £6 billion has been paid out to 484,166 business properties, approximately half of the grant funding allocated (48.65%).

The Small Business Grants Fund is a £10,000 grant per eligible business, originally announced at Budget. Businesses included in this scheme are those which on 11 March were eligible for relief under the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme (including those with a rateable value between £12,000 and £15,000 which receive tapered relief) or the Rural Rate Relief Scheme.

The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund was announced by the Chancellor on 17 March. Businesses in scope will be those that were eligible on 11 March for a discount under the Expanded

Retail Discount scheme and with a rateable value of less than £51,000:

eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to and including £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000
eligible businesses with a property that has a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000

Grants will be provided in respect of each



property (hereditament); therefore, businesses with multiple outlets would receive more than one grant and may receive grants from separate local authorities.

Figures for delivered grants are accurate as of 19 April 2020.

Businesses with multiple outlets can receive more than one grant and may receive grants from separate local authorities, if their different outlets are in different local authority areas. Only one grant can be paid per business premise.

Local authorities are contacting eligible businesses. It is important that businesses who have been contacted respond quickly and that any businesses who believe they are eligible check the arrangements in their area on their local authority website if they have yet to be contacted.

£17m government package to protect freight routes to Northern Ireland

April

- New scheme will support ferry operators on 5 routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- UK government continues to work closely with NI Executive and the aviation industry to agree funding to protect air passenger services between NI and GB

Vital ferry routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland have been safeguarded, thanks to a multi-million-pound government scheme to help ensure critical freight can continue to move into and across the Union.

The package, worth up to £17 million, is being funded by the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive and will be made available to operators so that they can continue running freight services on five sea routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced today that further funding, worth



tens of millions of pounds, will also be made available to support more routes across the UK, subject to discussions with operators.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

“Essential supplies are continuing to flow well, but operators are facing challenges as fewer people travelling means less capacity to move goods.

Today’s action will help ensure we have the freight capacity we need across the UK. This funding will help ferry operators protect our supply chain and maintain the flow of critical goods across the Irish Sea and throughout the Union.”

Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland, Brandon Lewis, said:

“This is excellent news for Northern Ireland and the connectivity of the entire United Kingdom.

Although this coronavirus outbreak has



reduced travel demand, this support package from the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive will ensure that essential ferry routes are kept open and vital transport links across the entire UK are safeguarded - guaranteeing the continued supply of critical goods, such as food and medical supplies.

I am pleased that a further support package is also being developed to help ensure crucial air passenger services to and from London, Belfast City Airport and City of Derry Airport are maintained. And we will continue to work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to help deliver that.”

In addition to the funding announced today, the Department for Transport is working closely with the wider transport sector and devolved administrations to monitor the situation on air routes which are vital in helping maintain transport links across the union.

The Secretary of State for Transport also confirmed that the Department has been working with the Northern Ireland Executive to develop a support package which will ensure passenger flights from Belfast

and Derry-Londonderry, to Great Britain are maintained during the pandemic.

The Department is in discussions with the relevant airlines, airports and the Northern Ireland Executive to finalise this package guaranteeing lifeline air passenger services remain in operation.

All operators on the following 5 routes between GB-NI are in the scope of this scheme:

Cairnryan-Larne
Heysham-Warrenpoint
Heysham – Belfast
Liverpool – Belfast
Cairnryan-Belfast

The funding package for maritime freight services to Northern Ireland is for up to 2 months. It is time-limited to help maintain services during the Covid-19 crisis. It will be made available only to roll-on, roll-off freight operators, which move freight by transporting haulage vehicles across sea routes.



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Easter Approaches

Social media post - Cheery images from welters[®] rural agricultural locations as we approach this Easter time.

Social media post



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Stone Engineering

welters® continue apace with production of stone engineering components for architectural artistry which, in these challenging times, is in high demand with inspired users.

Social media post

Coronavirus test, track and trace plan launched on Isle of Wight

May

- Isle of Wight announced as first phase of new 'test, track and trace' programme

- Rollout of NHS COVID-19 App to begin with the island's NHS and council staff tomorrow, with all island residents to get access from Thursday

- Data privacy and security paramount, with National Cyber Security Centre involved in app development

- The app will be complemented by enhanced contact tracing using existing methods online and over the phone

Isle of Wight residents will be the first to be offered access to a new contact tracing app, as part of government action to test, track and trace to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and move towards safely reducing lockdown measures.

Everyone on the island will receive access to the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app from this Thursday, with NHS

and council staff able to download from 4pm tomorrow, Tuesday 5 May.

Part of a new test, track and trace programme, the app will work together with enhanced contact tracing services and swab testing for those with potential COVID-19 symptoms to help minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Developed by NHSX, the technology arm of the health service, and a team of world-leading scientists and doctors, the app is designed to significantly speed up contact tracing, helping reduce the chance of the virus spreading by enabling us to rapidly identify people most at risk of infection so they can take action to protect themselves, the people they care about and the NHS.

When someone reports symptoms through the app, it will detect any other app users that the person has been in significant contact with over the past few days, including unknown contacts such as someone they may have sat next to on

public transport. The app will be able to anonymously alert these contacts and provide advice, including how to get a test to confirm whether or not they do have COVID-19. Users will be able order tests through the app shortly.



For those who may not have access to the app, or the ability to use a smartphone, there will be an option to report symptoms and order tests in other ways. As the integrated service develops, everyone who reports symptoms, including app users, will also be asked to record recent contacts using an online service (or through a telephone interview if they prefer), so that contact tracers can reach all contacts who may be at risk, whether or not those contacts are app users. Contacts will then be alerted either by the app or by email or telephone, advising them to self-isolate or offering public health advice.

As the test, track and trace programme rolls out nationally, expected in mid-May, Public Health England will oversee the deployment of 18,000 additional contact tracers to support the programme.

This first phase is a major step forward in the government's next phase of the coronavirus strategy and will improve understanding of how this new integrated approach to test, track and trace will work for the rest of the population.

NHS and council staff will be emailed a download link on Tuesday afternoon. From Thursday the app will then open for all residents on the Isle of Wight. All households will receive a leaflet with clear

instructions on how to download and use the app on Thursday, and a targeted marketing campaign will begin on Friday.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

"The Isle of Wight is playing a vital role with this pioneering work to help keep Britain safe. This will pave the way for a nationwide roll-out when the time is right.

Coronavirus is one of the greatest challenges our country has ever faced and this app will play a vital role in getting Britain back on her feet.

The app will help control the spread of coronavirus by alerting people they may have come into contact with it and recommending appropriate action.

This ground-breaking technology, combined with our heroic frontline health and social care staff, and both a nationwide contact tracing testing programme will ensure that we remain in the best position to move toward easing the lockdown."

Matthew Gould, Chief Executive of NHSX, said:

"Technology can help us get the country back on its feet.

By launching the NHS COVID-19 app we can reduce transmission of the virus by alerting people who may have been exposed, so they can take action to protect themselves, the people they care about and the NHS.

When combined with testing and enhanced web and phone contact tracing, this will help the country return to normality and beat coronavirus."

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jonathan Van Tam, said:

"By widespread testing those



suspected to be infected with coronavirus, tracing their contacts and where appropriate advising them to self-isolate, we can slow the onward spread of the virus. This new app-based system, developed by technology experts in partnership with clinicians and scientists, will run alongside traditional contact tracing by PHE. If uptake and use is widespread it will give us the greatest room for manoeuvre to ease other social distancing measures.”

Dr Yvonne Doyle, Medical Director and Director of Health Protection at Public Health England, said:

“Alongside the NHS COVID-19 app, PHE’s phone and web-based contact tracing will be a critical part of the government’s strategy to get the country back on its feet.

Taking these first steps on the Isle of Wight will help us prepare for a scale up of our contact tracing capacity, with an 18,000 strong team ensuring the contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases are followed up and given the information they need.”

The government has collaborated internationally and learned from examples of best practice across the world, which has informed the development of a bespoke approach that is right for the unique needs of the UK. The app uses similar Bluetooth low energy technology to that employed by

Australia, Norway, and Singapore among others.

The privacy and security of users’ data is a priority and NHSX has involved experts from the National Cyber Security Centre to advise on best practice through the app’s development. Data will only ever be used for NHS care, management, evaluation and research and the NHS will comply fully with the law around its use, including the Data Protection Act.

The Isle of Wight was chosen to trial the project because it has a single NHS trust that covers all NHS services on the island.

Its geography as an island with a sizeable population makes it an ideal place to introduce the NHS COVID-19 app and wider testing service in its initial roll-out period.

Isle of Wight Council leader Dave Stewart said:

“On behalf of the island I am very pleased we can be the first place to use this new digital technology in the country.

I have always been keen to ensure we keep our special community safe from the virus but at the same time explore ways to enable us to get back up on our feet and move forward from it. This scheme offers the

tightly controlled approach we need to help us do just that.

Widespread tracing and testing holds the key to this ambition and if we are able to help the country move forward then the island will also have done its part in helping government in tackling this virus and re building our lives through safe social distancing when the time is right.

I am sure islanders will rise to the challenge and help avoid post lockdown spread of the virus and keep people as safe as possible.”

The ambition of test and trace is to enable the UK to start to come out of some elements of lockdown. This will be a gradual process and our experts are considering how best to do this in a way that keeps citizens safe and protects our NHS.





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Agriculture

Hill grazing water drainage
and distribution works prior to
Spring native breed livestock
turnout.

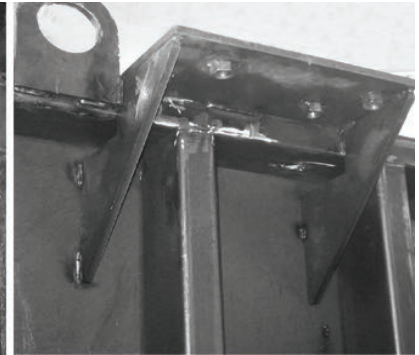
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Manufacturing Emphasis

welters® are constantly increasing and updating all tooling to support the fervent supply chain demand for components throughout this challenging era.

Social media post

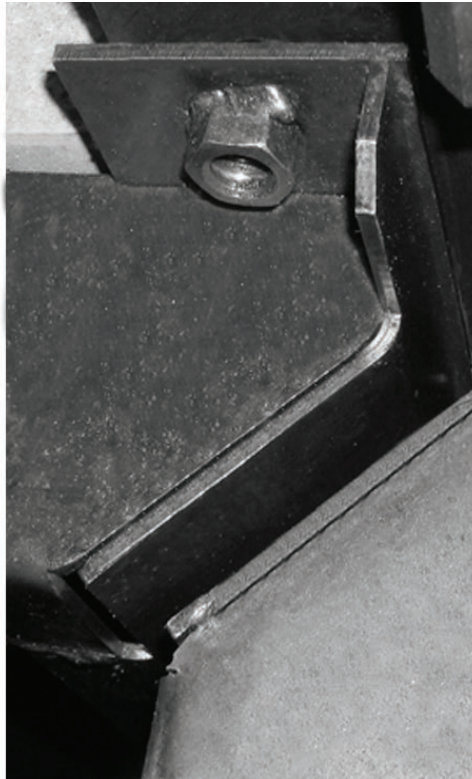
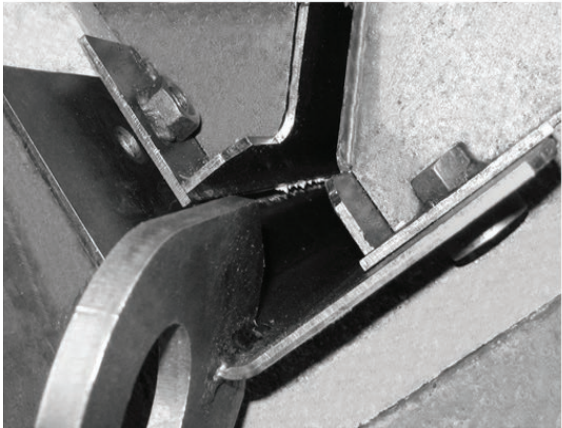
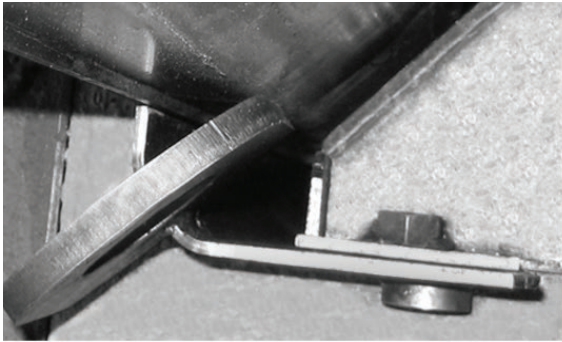
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Massive Investment in Advanced Tooling for Manufacturing Response

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Due to the continuously increasing demand in our production throughput to serve the industry in these most challenging times, welters[®] organisation are increasing their capabilities in production to the extent that output is enhanced through technology to enable our support to the market place to be appropriate to current need.

Output increase in response to requirement has received investment increase to facilitate real capability from all UK manufacturing expertise.

14-year minimum jail terms for most dangerous terror offenders

May

- serious terror offenders to spend longer in prison
- no prospect of automatic early release
- up to 25 years monitoring after leaving prison

The Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill marks the largest overhaul of terrorist sentencing and monitoring in decades.

It will end early release for terror offenders who receive Extended Determinate Sentences, where the maximum penalty was life, and force them to serve their whole term in jail.

It will also see the most dangerous offenders - those found guilty of serious terror offences such as the worst examples of preparing acts of terrorism - handed a minimum 14-year prison term and up to 25 years on licence.

Justice Secretary & Lord Chancellor, Rt

Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, said:

“Terrorists and their hateful ideologies have no place on our streets. They can now expect to go to prison for longer and face tougher controls on release.

From introducing a 14-year minimum for the most dangerous offenders, to putting in

place stricter monitoring measures, this government is pursuing every option available to tackle this threat and keep communities safe.”

The Bill will also allow the courts to consider if any serious offence is terror-related, for example an offence involving firearms where



there is a proven terrorist connection, and allow tougher sentences to be imposed.

This would rule out any possibility of a serious terror offender being released automatically before the end of their sentence.

Key measures of the Bill include:

- a new 'Serious Terrorism Sentence'



for dangerous offenders with a 14-year minimum jail term and up to 25 years spent on licence

- ending early release for the most serious offenders who receive Extended Determinate Sentences – instead the whole time will be served in custody

- increasing the maximum penalty from 10 to 14 years for a number of terror offences, including membership of a proscribed organisation

- ensuring a minimum period of 12 months on licence for all terror offenders as well as requiring adult offenders to take polygraph tests

- widening the list of offences that can be classed as terror-related to ensure they carry tougher sentences

- boosting the monitoring and disruption tools available to the security services and counter-terrorism police, by strengthening Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures and supporting the use of Serious Crime Prevention Orders in terrorism cases

Home Secretary, Priti Patel said:

“The shocking attacks at Fishmongers’ Hall and Streatham revealed serious flaws in

the way terrorist offenders are dealt with. We promised to act and today we are delivering on that promise.

Those who senselessly seek to damage and destroy lives need to know we will do whatever it takes to stop them.”

The Bill follows emergency legislation passed in February which retrospectively ended automatic early release for terrorist offenders serving standard determinate sentences. This forced them to spend a minimum two-thirds of their term behind bars before being considered for release by the Parole Board.

It builds on recent government action to bolster the country’s response to terrorism and ensure we have some of the strongest measures in the world to tackle the threat. This includes:

In addition a nationwide network of counter-terrorism specialists is now embedded throughout the prison and probation service and supported by the 29,000 staff who are trained to spot the signs of extremism.

Look Beyond the Surface

A moment of magic caught amongst the industrial chaos on one of our sites, proving that beauty can be found anywhere, if you look beyond the surface.

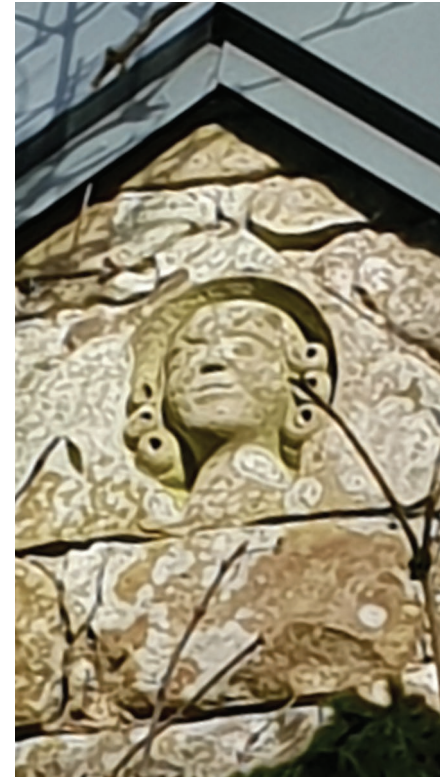
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Whithaugh Farm Building Renovation

Following recent portfolio amendments, it is proudly announced that there will be renovation work to historic Whithaugh Farm Buildings. Further information will be forthcoming shortly.

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Super Fine Systems

welters® under active pressure to supply the nation with its industrial requirements whilst designing super fine systems. It will be a very busy weekend!

Social media post

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Tooling Investment

Through tooling investment in response to national and international need, whilst many chatter and philosophise, welters® act and implement.

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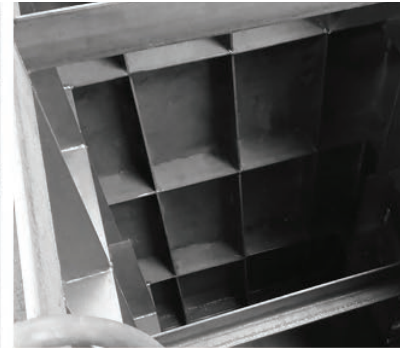
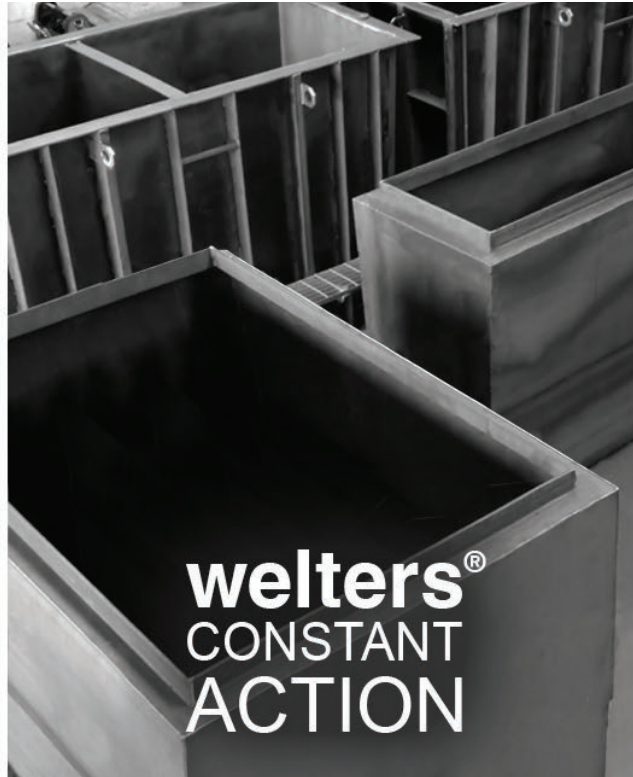
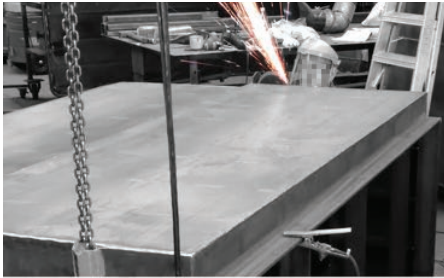


Expanding Tooling Base

welters® reassure that whilst others assemble in academic groups to conceive solutions to hypothetical questions, we are expanding our tooling base to supply important elements to key industries urgently required in this most vital and serious need of national and world trade.

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UK launches support package to protect tropical rainforests in Colombia

June

- World Environment Day sees COP26 President and Business Secretary Alok Sharma pledge support to help protect Amazon and tropical rainforests and its precious biodiversity

- UK funding and expertise will help to reduce and control deforestation, build institutions and create sustainable rural economies in regions where millions of livelihoods rely on the forest

- Colombia has been a regional champion of rainforest conservation in the wake of devastating fires and deforestation of the Amazon due to conflict and the coronavirus pandemic

- Colombia has been a long-standing partner on climate action, and 2020 marks one year of the UK-Colombia Sustainable Growth Partnership

COP26 President and Business Secretary Alok Sharma is marking World Environment

Day with a £64m package of funding and support for tropical rainforests in Colombia, bolstering the nation's efforts to protect the Amazon and tropical forests in Colombia, and its fragile ecosystem from deforestation.

Part of the UK's commitment to fighting global climate change, the package will strengthen Colombia's land rights and criminal justice system, controlling

deforestation while building a fairer, greener and more resilient rural economy in the region.

The Amazon and tropical rainforests are a powerful symbol of the fight against climate change, and accounts for 25% of all carbon emissions absorbed by the world's forests. Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world



and has been a leading voice in South America on environmental issues, but has recently seen a spike in deforestation and forest fires in the wake of conflict and the impact of coronavirus.

COP26 President Alok Sharma, said:

“We all have a duty to work together to protect our planet’s precious biodiversity.

Our work with the Colombian government will help stop deforestation in the Amazon and across the country, protect precious ecosystems, and support sustainable, rural livelihoods for communities that depend on the forest.”

Speaking on behalf of the Colombian government, Minister for the Environment, Ricardo Lozano said:

“These cooperation resources correspond to the biggest bilateral grant that we have received so far for environmental purposes during this administration. They are the result of the bilateral Partnership for Sustainable Growth that we jointly signed in London in June of 2019, and that will focus on supporting the fight against deforestation and environmental crime, as well as the creation of sustainable economic livelihoods.

Moreover, they are a result of the excellent relationship that we hold with the United Kingdom, to whom we appreciate their invaluable support”.

The latest funding builds on £173 million of UK support to Colombia and comes as part of the UK’s International Climate Finance (UK ICF) programme and will provide £64 million in grant finance to tackle deforestation in conflict-affected, deforestation hotspots of rural Colombia. The programme will deliver the cadastre work through the World Bank, environmental crime measures through the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, as well as additional local partners working with communities to establish sustainable farming and forestry approaches and businesses.

The UK Government has committed to spending 20% of UK ICF on forest and land use interventions and our goal of reduced net carbon emissions. UK ICF is the government’s commitment to provide at least £5.8 billion between 2016-2020 to tackle global climate change.

Colombian President Iván Duque Márquez has been a regional leader and climate champion and has strengthened his leading role in the wake of the disastrous 2019 Amazon fires.

Today’s announcement has been welcomed by leading environmental groups, including the World Wildlife Fund.

Manuel Pulgar, the WWF’s Climate and Energy Leader and Friend of COP26, said:

“As we struggle with the challenges of this pandemic, it has never been more evident that our very health and survival depend on the health of our planet. This is a critical moment for all of the world to take decisive action on climate and the loss of biodiversity.

This leadership from the governments of the UK and Colombia to drive greater ambition and lead by example to develop nature-based solutions that create opportunities for economic recovery post COVID, built on systemic changes for sustainability, inclusivity and equity.”

The announcement follows the UK government’s confirmation that the UN climate change talks will be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Diverse Bloodlines

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COVID-19:

What we know so far

by Paul Bazeley

Whether we like it or not, COVID-19 has changed the world and has had a profound effect on our lives and although it may seem to have been around for a long time it is a very new disease. In this piece, we will look at what it is, where it came from and some of the impact it has already had.

What is it?

What we are referring to as COVID-19, which is also known as coronavirus, is sometimes referred to as Sars-CoV-2 which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, this is technically the name of the virus

whereas COVID-19 is the disease caused by the virus. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), they more commonly use the phrase the 'COVID-19 virus', so it is not confused with the SARS virus outbreak from 2003. Still, the term COVID-19 or coronavirus seem to be popular catchall terms for the current pandemic. The name COVID-19 stands for 'CO' – 'corona', 'VI' – 'virus', 'D' – 'Disease' and '19' for '2019'.

COVID-19 is a disease that is caused by a coronavirus. Coronaviruses are groups of viruses known to infect both animals and humans. In humans' coronaviruses cause respiratory illness and can be anything from common colds to serious infections. Before COVID-19, the most well-known

coronavirus was probably the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak from 2003 which was found in 26 countries and caused over 750 deaths and is referred to above.

Symptoms of coronaviruses, COVID-19 included, are often mild, usually consisting of a dry cough and a fever, but in some cases, they can be far more severe and cause respiratory tract illness such as bronchitis and pneumonia, septic shock or organ failure. As with other coronaviruses, those most at risk are the elderly and people with existing health conditions such as heart problems, breathing conditions, diabetes



COVID-19

Coronavirus

and obesity.

The symptoms of COVID-19 include dry cough, fever or chills, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, sore throat, loss of taste and smell, headache and diarrhoea. If you do show any of the symptoms you should self-isolate and try to get a test. Although most will be able to manage the symptoms at home those with severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, should seek medical attention. WHO suggests that on average it takes 5-6 days for someone infected with the virus to show symptoms, however, it can take up to 14 days.

Where is it from?

The beginnings of COVID-19 are a little bit unknown. Some researchers believe that it may have started in October/November 2019 and some studies suggest it may have been earlier. What we do know for sure is WHO's China office heard a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal

Health Commission about cases of 'viral pneumonia' in the Wuhan area of China on the 31st December 2019. They then requested information from the Chinese authorities and then shared information to scientific and public health authorities. There had been no reports of deaths until 11th January 2020 when Chinese media first reported one had occurred due to coronavirus.

Although the origin does seem to be relatively unknown, the most widely believed story is that towards the end of 2019 someone was infected with a virus from an animal at the Huanan seafood market in Wuhan (the capital of the Hubei province in China). Scientists believe it is highly likely the virus came from bats. While it is still undetermined, the animal which seems to be the most likely intermediary is the pangolin, a commonly illegally traded animal which is prized for its supposed medicinal properties and its meat. Nevertheless, although the pangolin seems to be getting the headlines

as the culprit, some studies suggest the animal lacks a chain of amino acids seen in the virus and are ruling the theory out. What we do know is scientists seem confident it came from bats to an intermediary animal and then to humans, how and when that started is still very much up for debate.

Before moving on, it is worth touching on some of the other theories about the origin of coronavirus. One theory is that the virus has come from a lab in Wuhan and was either purposefully leaked or was accidentally leaked into the population. This theory has been criticised by many leading scientists and quickly fell into a conspiracy theory list. Rumours of the virus coming from a lab prompted the WHO to warn about an 'infodemic' of false news.

Finally, probably one of the more off theories, is the belief that coronavirus was caused by 5G. Although several major health organisations have stated that 5G is safe and there is no link between 5G and coronavirus it did not stop some protestors taking to the streets. While the UK was in lockdown there were several attacks on telecom workers and almost 100 mobile masts were set on fire.

What is the impact?

In terms of the impact of the virus, it has been disastrous on a worldwide scale. By the end of April over 70 countries had imposed a national lockdown, a further 48 imposing localised lockdowns and a host of others placing localised and national recommendations. This truly is a pandemic that has touched every corner of the globe.

Sadly, the inevitable outcome of such a virus spreading is that people will die. By the beginning of August 2020, COVID-19 had reached 192 countries and territories and caused

over 650,000 deaths. In the UK alone the death toll had surpassed 40,000, while thousands of others have been hospitalised due to serious illness.

While deaths and serious illness will always have the largest impact, the virus is affecting many aspects of life. After deaths, probably the most spoken about issue is the impact on the economy. Worldwide, stock markets saw large drops with the Nikkei being -5.2% down, the Dow Jones being -13.3% down and the FTSE 100 being -19.3% down in July, when compared to the start of the year. Unemployment figures rose across the globe when compared to the year before with Japan seeing a 0.6% rise, Germany a 0.7% raise, the UK a 1% rise, Italy a 2.7% raise and the US a 6.7% rise.

In the UK, GDP fell 20.4% in April, the largest fall since records began in 1997 and all but one of the service sectors (public administration and defence did not) declined in the same month. A survey also found that over half of

UK customers believe they will go shopping less often over the next one or two years. This is a worrying result, particularly after shopper's footfall was down 78% from the 14th to the 20 June 2020 compared to the previous year. The UK has already seen shops close, companies fall into administration and many others who are currently struggling to stay afloat; the longer this pandemic lasts the worse it will be on the economy.

The impact on the NHS is another subject of concern. At the beginning of lockdown, the number of critical care beds available was worryingly low and despite the mobilisation of several Nightingale hospitals across the country if a second wave does come, something believed to be a very real possibility in winter, some fear we may still come up short. Also, while hospitals are stretched

trying to keep up with COVID-19 patients inevitably, other patients are having consultations and surgeries postponed. The British Medical Association (BMA) estimated that in April, May and June 2020 in England there were between 274,000 and 286,000 fewer urgent cancer referrals and between 2.47 million and 2.60 million fewer outpatient attendances. At some point, the NHS needs to catch up and the full extent of the impact is unlikely to be realised until the virus is under control.

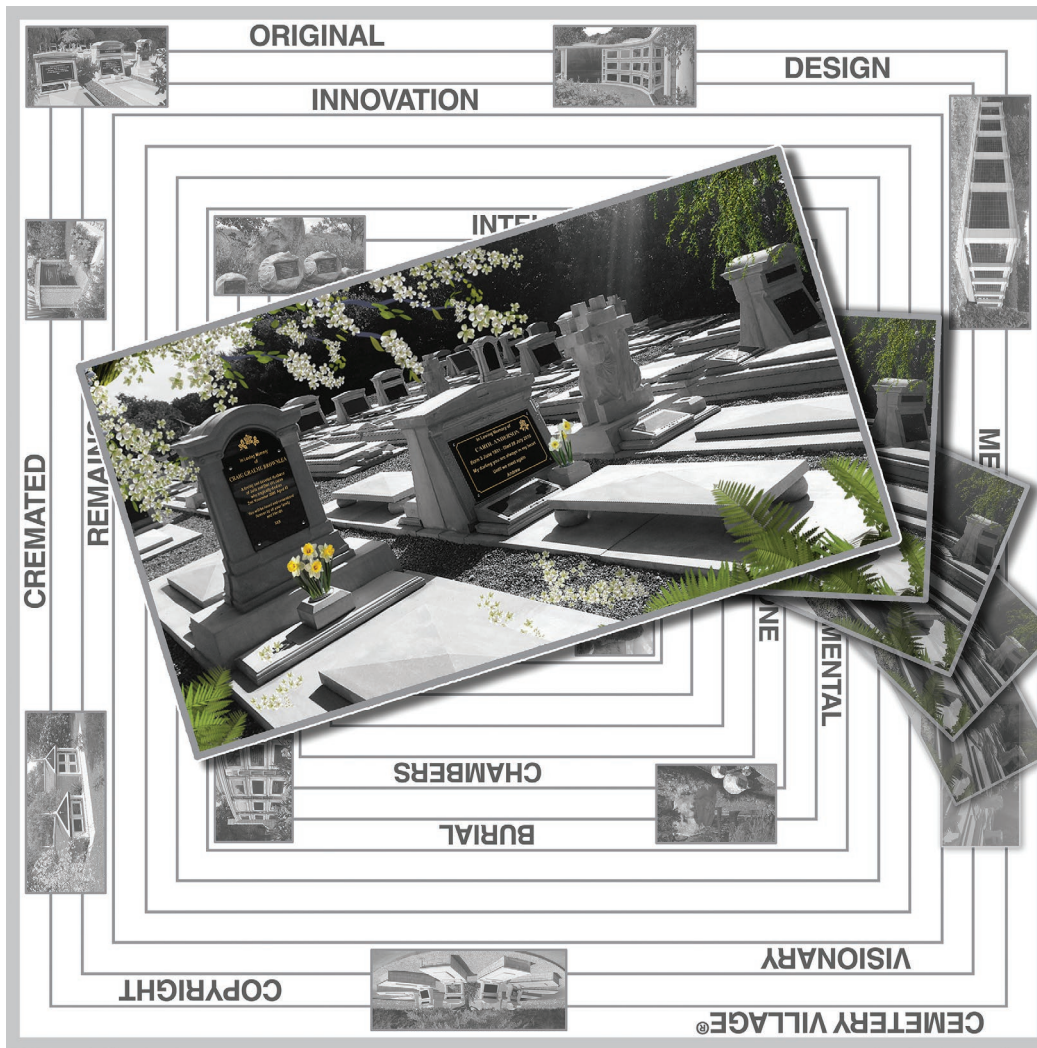
Last, but certainly not least, is the impact on people. A range of mental health issues due to social distancing and a prolonged lockdown has been highlighted, with surveys showing there have been increasing levels of anxiety and one report revealing over two-thirds of adults in the UK have felt worried about COVID-19. There have also been serious concerns for victims of domestic abuse. A report by MPs found that 14 women and 2 children were killed in the first three weeks of

lockdown.

It is fair to say the impact has been far-reaching and the severity of this pandemic is yet to be seen. If like some predict the colder months bring a second wave the global impact will likely be even more severe. The experts suggest a vaccine is the best way out of this situation, the problem is indications are pointing to a spring 2021 arrival at the earliest, what happens before then may have resounding consequences for years to come.

A follow-up piece will be written in a later issue of Government World discussing advances in the pandemic.





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PLACES TO VISIT:

Highdown House, Goring-by-Sea

by Jackie Bazeley

In November 2019 my partner and I had to visit West Sussex and needed a hotel for one night. I turned to the internet to find accommodation and what a find it was.

Highdown House off Littlehampton Road, Goring-by-Sea is a busy, yet tranquil hotel providing comfortable, homely accommodation and good food in a historic setting. It was the history that fascinated me.

The house as you see it today is circa 1820 and when built owned by the Lyons family. Major Frederick Stern (later Sir) purchased it in 1909. Sir Stern had quite a career in the army and supported British prime minister Lloyd George at the Paris Peace Conference. It comes as little surprise therefore that he started to develop his garden soon after purchasing it; it must



have brought him some peace being submerged in the horrors of WW1. However it was not until he married that he and his wife settled down to create, what became a famous garden in a Sussex chalk pit. The gardens development coincided with botanical expeditions to countries such as China and 'rare and beautiful' plants were brought back which still survive in the garden today.

The lovely house has seen changes in use since being built. In 1969 the house was given by Lady Stern to Worthing Council, at the bequest of her husband. It then had a number of uses including two nightclubs in the 1990's and then in 1998 it was closed and reopened as a hotel and carvery. The auspicious house is now much calmer and has undergone restoration, reflecting more the atmosphere of the early 1900's.

Unfortunately bad weather prevented us from visiting the gardens or enjoying Highdown Hill which is adjacent to the property. The latter gives access to a 2.5 mile circular walk with stunning

scenery. I did manage to dodge the heavy rain and see the entrance to the gardens and the start of the walk, both

of which will wait until our next visit....



Fitness Focus at home during lockdown

June

As an armed national infrastructure police force, it is vital our Authorised Firearms Officers remain fit and healthy so they can carry out their demanding role.

During the lockdown and the ongoing closure of gyms, maintaining fitness can be difficult to maintain and although the current lockdown restrictions have been relaxed in terms of exercise, gyms and other exercise outlets will not be reopening.

As a Constabulary we offer an excellent Occupational Health and Wellbeing provision, which includes fitness, and have been running a series of Fitness Focus videos for new recruits and current officers giving hints on tips on passing the Multi-Stage Fitness Test and maintaining fitness levels.

On Tuesday 23 June 2020, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Manager, Chris Williams, hosted a Fitness Focus Facebook event

Although currently required to work from home due to Covid-19 restrictions, Chris

got creative and filmed an 'At Home' special edition of his popular Fitness Focus series.

After sourcing questions from followers on social media, Chris spoke on various subjects relating to fitness, nutrition, and the CNC's fitness assessment for recruitment candidates.

Questions covered themes such as reducing body fat, improving speed, the importance of nutrition, and how to build up your fitness level following a period of illness.

One question on remaining active whilst adapting to life in lockdown, resonated particularly well with Chris. You can view a clip on our YouTube channel

As well as answering questions, Chris also demonstrated a series of stretches suitable to support candidates when they undertake the fitness assessment.

One viewer who is currently preparing to undertake the fitness assessment said, "He's doing a great job. I'm really enjoying the info he's providing. There's so much

information provided in the videos and messages."

Across Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter the Fitness Focus At Home videos received over 2,000 views in the first 24 hours.

As part of the recruitment process for the position of Authorised Firearms Officer, all candidates are required to attain level 7.6 on the Multi-Stage Fitness Test. Once a serving CNC AFO, you will also be required to undertake this test once a year as a continuing condition of employment.

Fitness assessments are currently on hold due to the ongoing Covid-10 pandemic. Candidates will be contacted to be invited to an event as soon as it is safe to resume.





COVER OPTIONS

considered by our Editorial Department for the Summer edition
of which the top design was selected

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