

Government *WORLD*TM



Spring 2013 Edition

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welters organisation

P.O. Box 159 Carlisle, Great Britain CA2 5BG

Office: 08702 400915 (national rate)

Fax: 01228 674959

E-mail: office@government-world.com

Submissions should be sent to **Government WORLD**,
PO Box 159, Carlisle, CA2 5BG Tel: 08702 400915 Fax:
01228 674 959 Email: gov.world@welters-worldwide.com

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Cover picture
The art of landscape sculpture

Back cover picture
Daffodils in Spring 2013

Ryanair told to 'Pay Up' - Gods Fault or Not

Ryanair has been ordered to pay compensation to its passengers left stranded due to cancelled flights caused by the ash cloud ejected by the Eyjafjallajökull volcano eruption in Iceland back in 2010. Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary said the European Court ruling is "mad" and "a bit like suing Toyota because you got stuck in a traffic jam on the M25".

The events of 2010 resulted in a six day flight ban across Europe and highlighted the major differences between established airlines and low-cost carriers in the way they treat consumers.

Main carriers such as British Airways have procedures to deal with emergencies and accommodated their

stranded passengers in hotels. But those who flew with budget airlines were mostly forced to find their own accommodations. Ryanair for instance have rarely paid for its passengers to stay in hotels when flights have been cancelled due to bad weather – and it didn't accommodate them during the ash cloud disruption either.

Under EC regulation 261/2004, which applies to all flights starting in the EU and flights operated by EU-based carriers, the airline is required to provide food, drinks, hotel accommodation and transfers, if appropriate. There are also no time or financial limits on this assistance and the airlines have argued that this ruling was designed for short-term incidents and they can't be

held responsible for long term widespread closures of airspace.

As a result many passengers have been left without recompense and facing a lengthy claims battle to get their money back.

However, the recent court ruling - now binding across the EU - said such events "constitute 'extraordinary circumstances' which do not release air carriers from their obligation to provide

care".

The EU regulation on passenger rights "does not provide for any limitation, either temporal or monetary, of the obligation to provide care to passengers whose flight is cancelled due to extraordinary circumstances", the ECJ said.

"Thus, all the obligations to provide care to passengers are imposed on the air carrier for the whole period during which the passengers concerned must await their re-routing."





welters® working well with wet weather

Government *WORLD* Spring 2013 supplemental

So it's now official: 2012 was (1337.3mm).

the second wettest year on record in the UK and the wettest ever in England, the Met Office announced on Thursday 3rd Jan 2013.

It's probably not a great surprise as anyone involved in outdoor activities will know that it bloody pissed down seemingly every day since Spring!

The downpours that caused more than 8,000 homes and businesses to suffer flooding led to a total of 1,330.7mm of rain for the year, just 6.6mm short of the wettest UK year as recorded in 2000

While England suffered the wettest year since records began in 1910, 2012 was the third wettest for Wales, the 17th wettest for Scotland and the 40th wettest for Northern Ireland.

Ex-stream weather

This excess of precipitation is blamed on the southerly position of the jet stream which normally resides north of the UK during the Summer months and runs in a fairly straight line from the east coast of America across the Atlantic. This steady positioning creates

a slightly cooler version of Continental European weather but this year it has regularly fluctuated south of the UK drawing moisture from the Atlantic resulting in an overall cooler and wetter climate than usual.

To compound things further, experts are suggesting that global climate change will continue to drive fluctuations in the jet stream. Extremes in weather patterns are set to increase as the erratic stream sweeps down from the north bringing with it cooler air and blizzards and then intense rains and flooding as it returns back from the south.

Things can only get better?

All indications are pointing

to an even more changeable climate than we're used to, where torrential rains can reach tropical proportions and land can fast become waterlogged or flooded. It is now that we need to plan ahead to reduce the impact on how this will effect the way we operate in the UK.

Take cemeteries; many municipal burials take place in Victorian built cemeteries which typically were built in once rural areas of towns and cities and relied heavily on natural drainage into nearby fields and hedgerow drainage ditches.

Massive post war development now places many of these once rural locations well within the urban conurbation and many with now inadequate drainage systems that may once have just managed to cope with 'traditional' levels of rainfall but fail completely in more extreme deluges.

Even some newly built cemeteries have failed to design sufficient drainage into their construction leading to flooded or waterlogged burial sections. One such cemetery (opened in 1996) in Bedfordshire has recently suspended all earthen burials for the foreseeable future as excessive water levels brought them in breach of Environmental Agency guidelines for groundwater runoff in cemeteries.

If a cemetery suffers from poor drainage then the risk of contamination into surrounding water courses from burials in earthen graves is a real possibility.

On top of this, waterlogged ground is unsafe to excavate, unsightly to look at and creates access problems for both cemetery workers and visitors to the cemetery. It is also very distressing for the bereaved to visit graves which are

situated in standing water.

The Solution

The Environment Agency document Groundwater Pollution Potential of Cemetery Developments states:

“The burial of corpses in cemeteries, and their subsequent degradation, may potentially cause pollution of groundwater. Local authorities have a responsibility for control of new cemeteries through the planning process. The Environment Agency (the Agency) has new powers under the Groundwater Regulations 1998 to take action where groundwater pollution occurs, or is likely to occur.”

The most effective way to mitigate the risk of these pollutants in groundwater is to remove the corpse from the drainage cycle altogether. Preventing any contaminates from entering

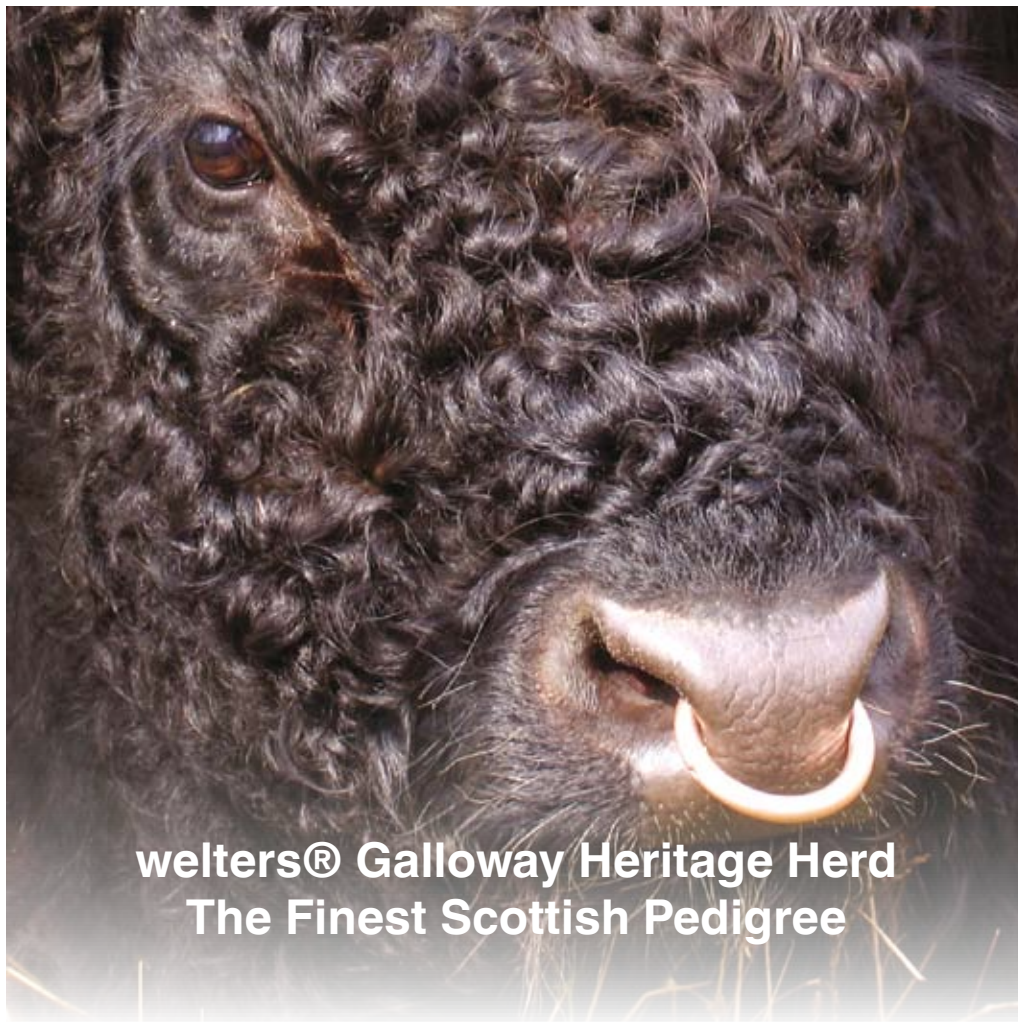
the water system eliminates the risk of any potential pollution.

This means that as an alternative to earthen burial where the coffin is placed directly into the earth and the grave is filled with soil, the coffin is instead placed into a burial chamber which is subsequently sealed to prevent any ingress of water and importantly any egress of bodily fluids that become present during the decay

process.

Burial chambers can be installed across entire sections complete or in phases. Additional drainage can be designed in as required during the development stages to create safe dry all-year-round access to the burial facility. In low lying problematic areas chambers can be raised part above ground turning what once was considered land unsuitable for burial into a prime place of interment and additional revenue resource for the Burial Authority.





welters® Galloway Heritage Herd
The Finest Scottish Pedigree

Green Agriculture & Land Management

Pedigree Galloway Heritage Herd
welters® continues to own and develop the Heritage Galloway Herd of single suckle cattle. This magnificent family as a historic pedigree feeds from natural grasses, heathers mosses and water meadow plants. The Galloway is one of the oldest and purest of our native cattle breeds. They are famed for their hardiness and can live off the poorest of land. The Galloway female is the ideal suckler cow and will produce an excellent beefy calf which is in great demand by people requiring the highest quality, natural grown beef. Galloway Cattle have a great deal to offer and will fit into any agricultural system, either a traditional hill farm or low land management plan. Galloway popularity is growing due to the increased interest in British Native breeds and environmental issues.

At the 2009 Royal Highland show, the Galloway breed won all the major trophies including the individual, native interbreed, interbreed and pairs competitions. Never before has one breed dominated all the cattle championships at Scotlands premiere event.

A blackberry is a phone not a fruit, according to majority of young people



When asked what a “blackberry” is, 82 per cent of people aged 16-24 instantly thought of a mobile phone rather than a fruit according to new figures published today.

Results from an online YouGov poll also showed 55 per cent of the UK population haven’t been to a farm in

the past ten years and when asked to select from a list of professions, only 11 per cent saw farming as the career they’d most like to work in, compared to the 51 per cent who wanted to work as teachers, doctors or lawyers.

These figures come on the day Farming Minister David Heath meets with five young people who won the chance to talk about the issues facing their future in farming. They won the chance after entering a Twitter competition on @Defragovuk by tweeting what they see as the key barriers facing them.

The five winners of the competition are: Emily Scott, who is studying for a Masters at the University of Cambridge, looking at anaerobic digestion as a way to manage waste in the agricultural supply chain.

Becca Watkins, who is studying Biological Sciences at the University of Oxford.

Alex Stevens, a Politics graduate and has spent time

working in Local Government and in the delivery of Rural Development Programme for England and works on his family farm.

Stephen Jones, who is currently studying for a PhD in crop science at the University of Nottingham. Phillipp Steadman, a student at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester.

David Heath’s meeting is part of the Future of Farming Group which has been set up to examine issues affecting new entrants to the industry.

Mr Heath said: “There’s a huge level of disengagement from the countryside which prevents gifted young people from grasping the opportunities it offers.

“I want more young people to think about farming as a thriving, cutting-edge industry that values the bright ideas talented young people can bring. That’s why it’s so important to speak about the barriers they face to make sure

that we get the best into the industry.”

The group is led by David Fursdon, Chairman of the South West Rural and Farming Network and former President of the Country Land and Business Association.

Reporting in the summer, the group will examine the issues affecting new entrants to the industry such as the future workforce, the different entry routes into farming and the challenges facing new entrants such as lack of training and access to capital.

The group today also launched a call for evidence asking people to give them their views on getting forward-thinking graduates into the industry. The results will be used by the Group to make recommendations about how to make the industry more accessible to young people.

David Fursdon said: “We need the brightest and best to take agriculture seriously so that we get more highly-skilled people into the industry.

“But it’s crucial as well that we make sure there are effective mechanisms in place that make it possible for young people to get into the industry and be supported when they start their careers.”

Export licence deferred in hope historic manuscript remains in UK

The finest surviving copy of the 15th century romance *Gillion de Trazegnies*, has had a temporary export bar placed on it to provide a last chance to raise the £3,849,250 needed to keep the manuscript in the UK.

Culture Minister Ed Vaizey took the decision to defer granting an export licence for the manuscript following a recommendation by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA), on the grounds of the manuscript's aesthetic importance and it's outstanding significance for the study of illuminated manuscripts and of 15th century Netherlandish secular art.

The text tells the story of a crusading knight, based on Gilles I (1134-61), Lord of Trazegnies, and his relative Gilles le Brun (1199 -1276), who was a champion of the first Crusade of St Louis. Whilst the author is unknown, the book was commissioned by the renowned bibliophile Louis of Gruuthuse, and of the more than two hundred manuscripts remaining from his impressive library, this manuscript is arguably the finest artistically.

Lavishly illustrated, the manuscript includes eight half-page miniatures with painted borders and forty-four historiated initials, all by Lieven Van Lathem (fl. 1454-93), one of the most successful painters in the Low Countries during this period. The manuscript is

extremely rare and there are no other copies of the text in the UK.

Culture Minister Ed Vaizey said: "This stunning manuscript is an exquisite example of Flemish illumination and it would be wonderful if the extra time granted by the export allows a buyer to come forward and ensure it remains in a UK collection."

The decision on the export licence application for the manuscript will be deferred for a period ending on 3 July 2013 inclusive. This period may be extended until 3 November 2013 inclusive if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase the manuscript at the recommended price of £3,849,250.

Offers from public bodies for less than the recommended price through the private

treaty sale arrangements, where appropriate, may also be considered by Mr Vaizey. Such purchases frequently offer substantial financial benefit to a public institution wishing to acquire the item.



Long term farm research gives farmland birds a lift

Environment Minister Richard Benyon recently visited Hillesden Farm in Buckinghamshire, which is at the forefront of research work into how Environmental Stewardship can better deliver benefits to wildlife alongside the vital role the scheme plays in investing in England's farm businesses.

For the last five years, Hillesden has been the home of a detailed study where areas of the farm have been managed under different Environmental Stewardship options to provide a scientific comparison on how best to tackle the 'hungry gap' for farmland birds - the period between mid-winter and spring when naturally available and planted bird seed food can be in short supply in the countryside.

The Hillesden Farm study showed that winter food

habitats were largely exhausted by the end of December and that the separate provision of food at the farm level appeared to significantly increase the number of birds surviving over the winter.

The work at Hillesden has helped inform the development of new Environmental Stewardship options that are designed to encourage farmers to provide food for wild birds during the 'hungry gap'.

Since 1 January 2013, five new wildlife-friendly Environmental Stewardship options have been available to farmers, including a new incentive to provide supplementary food for seed-eating birds - such as finches, buntings and sparrows. This new option is straightforward to implement and does not require any additional land to be taken out of production. There is also a new option for grassland farmers to provide winter food for birds by allowing a ryegrass sward to re-grow and set seed after a silage cut has been taken.

With almost 60 farms already

signed up to deliver the new winter bird food options, Richard Benyon said:

"The work being undertaken here at Hillesden is giving us an increasingly clear picture of how Environmental Stewardship can provide benefits for wildlife and businesses.

"It is a great example of how dedicated on-farm research can help wildlife and the action being taken to provide food over the winter for farmland birds is making a massive difference.

"I'm delighted at the enthusiasm farmers are already showing in tackling this hungry gap."

The final results from the first part of the Hillesden study will be completed in mid 2013, but research findings already show that providing a good supply of cereal, oilseed and specialised grains from mid-winter to early spring can help birds such as yellowhammers and tree sparrows survive the winter.

Short-term provision of specialised grain on farm

tracks during these critical months can really make a difference. Already, nearly 2,000 tonnes of feed will be available during the lifetime of the 57 agreements signed up so far, so the potential for bridging the hungry gap is significant.

Natural England's Chair Poul Christensen said: "The ongoing research at Hillesden is proving to be a valuable, practical test of the effectiveness of ELS option combinations. Its a real-life look at how Environmental Stewardship can be applied at a farm-scale, replicating as closely as possible the choices that a commercial farmer would make and shows how farmers can bring real benefits to the environment and particularly in tackling the decline in our country's much loved seed-eating birds."

The work at Hillesden Farm was carried out by Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Wildlife Farming Company in partnership with Faccenda Farms and British Trust for Ornithology and jointly funded by Defra and Natural England.



Cash support for new farmers

New farmers, who are ineligible for vital European funding, are set to benefit from cash support from the Scottish Government.

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead has pledged £2 million of support for new entrants who are currently excluded from receiving single farm payments.

He unveiled his plans in a speech to the NFU Scotland conference in St Andrews.

Mr Lochhead said:

“Scotland has a wealth of talented young farmers who are eager to farm and help shape the future of the industry in Scotland. We need these farmers. They are the future of our industry but the current system leaves them disadvantaged.

“Within the EU rules I am seeking ways to help and

the funding I have unveiled today will provide some support for those farmers who are currently ineligible for subsidies. I have asked the New Entrants Advisory Panel to provide urgent advice about how best to spend the money and how to ensure it is allocated fairly.

“I’m committed to supporting our new entrants and helping them get a fairer deal out of the next Common Agricultural Policy. This has long been a priority for Scotland.

“Among those who may benefit are the new Forestry Commission Scotland tenants who have been given an important first step on the farming ladder today.

“The starter farm initiative provides real opportunities for the next generation of farmer. It is an excellent example of both optimising land use and collaborative working across both the forestry and agriculture sectors.

“Recognising the high

demand for starter farms, FCS has identified two more starter farms - at Rynaclach Farm, near Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire and at Glenside, by Kirkmichael, Ayrshire - and is now seeking applications for these opportunities.”

FCS is offering the new entrants a 10 year Limited Duration Tenancy (LDT) agreement. It is hoped that each will gain valuable experience in managing their own farm business on a part-time basis before moving on to larger scale operations at the end of their lease period.

Robin Waddell, Agricultural Advisor with Forestry Commission Scotland, said

“All five of the candidates demonstrated their passion for the task ahead, presenting clear business plans of how they aim to work the land. We are looking forward to working alongside these enthusiastic young farmers.

“With two more starter units being offered, we are now

seeking applications from new entrants looking for that life-changing opportunity to get their farming career off the ground. I am confident that we will once again receive a high calibre of applicants for these positions based on previous rounds of this initiative.”



Working in the endless Winter weather

Spring definitely has not sprung as the whole country shivers into April.

Luckily **welters®** are a hardy bunch and our installation teams have been venturing across the

breadth and width of UK to ensure the service to our customers is maintained.

From fitting an inscribed plaque to a niche wall to installing burial chambers, mausolea and cremation

memorials, our teams of installation experts have battled through to make sure we are pushing forward with all our commitments.

It's been a long Winter

with some of the harshest conditions we've ever faced; extreme rains, flooding, hard frosts and icy blizzards, lets hope when Summer finally arrives we can enjoy more than a just few days of sunshine!

Until then it's on with the thermals and on with the Job!



New rules aimed at streamlining the Employment Tribunal process announced

New rules aimed at streamlining the Employment Tribunal process have been announced by Employment Relations Minister Jo Swinson.

These changes will make tribunals easier to understand, more efficient and will help weed out weak claims.

In November 2011 the government commissioned Mr Justice Underhill, former President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to lead a fundamental review of the rules of procedure for employment tribunals.

In its response, published today the government sets out plans to streamline the tribunal process and make it easier for parties to navigate.

The proposals the government have accepted include: new strike out powers to

ensure that weak cases that should not proceed to full hearing are halted at the earliest possible opportunity; guidance from the Employment Tribunal Presidents to help ensure that judges deal with hearings in a consistent manner which ensures parties know what to expect; making it easier to withdraw and dismiss claims by cutting the amount of paper work required; and a new procedure for preliminary hearings that combines separate pre-hearing reviews and case management discussions. This will reduce the overall number of hearings and lead to a quicker disposal of cases saving time and costs for all parties.

Employment Relations Minister, Jo Swinson said

“We are committed to finding ways to resolve workplace disputes so they don’t end

up with two sides in front of a tribunal.”

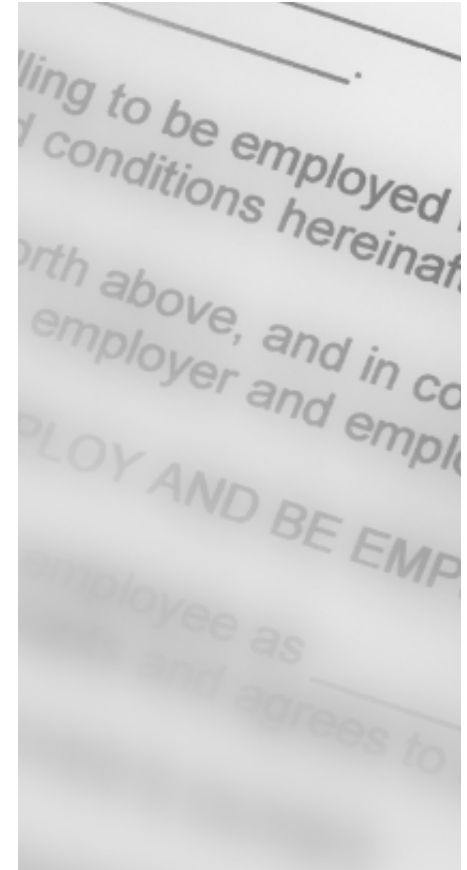
“The proposals set out today will help all parties understand what the process involves and what to expect. Employment Tribunals are costly in terms of time, money and stress for everyone and they should always be the last resort, not the first port of call.”

“We have always said, and this is backed up by international evidence, that the UK has one of the most flexible labour markets in the world. Our efforts to review of areas of employment law not just tribunals are about making sure business can get on and grow, while employees have the necessary protections in place.”

It is expected that the new rules will come into force this summer.

The government is also publishing an update report Employment Law 2013: progress on reform which sets out its vision of a flexible,

efficient and fair labour market. The report outlines key achievements to date and looks ahead to future work on the government’s Employment Law Review.



Government and industry pledge long-term partnership to support the domestic aerospace sector

The aerospace industrial strategy sets out how the sector will continue to grow in the face of increasing global competition and to exploit rapid changes in technology.

The £2 billion funding announced on 18 March 2013 will be provided by government and the aerospace industry over a seven year period and help secure around 115,000 jobs.

The funding will also create a UK Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI), allowing industry and academic researchers to develop the next generation of quieter, more energy efficient aircraft.

As part of the Industrial

Strategy government will also put £500 million towards other sectors such as the automobile industry and agriculture technology.



Drivers mistrust Government over toll roads

A massive ninety-one per cent of motorists do not trust the government to reinvest money made from tolls on new roads.

A survey by the Institute of Advanced Motorists revealed that sixty per cent of motorists do not support toll roads, and seventy-nine per cent of motorists would not support the introduction of tolls on existing roads.

Forty per cent of motorists would back more expensive tax discs instead of charging tolls on roads. Forty-one per cent wouldn't support toll roads even if other types of tax were reduced.

Motorists were divided on using toll roads. Forty-seven per cent of motorists said they don't plan their journey to deliberately avoid using toll roads, while forty-four per cent of motorists do.

Motorists feel strongly about toll roads in their local area. Fifty-six per cent of respondents said that they would use rural or local roads to avoid the toll charges, if a toll was enforced on their local motorway.

IAM chief executive Simon Best said: "The cost of motoring is currently at an all-time high, and it's clear that the idea of bringing in toll roads has no support among everyday motorists.

"A toll on motorways, our safest roads, may force motorists on to more dangerous rural roads, to save money.

"The government has a very hard job ahead to convince drivers that tolls are the only way to deliver new roads and improve existing ones. Only by reducing other motoring taxes can this policy gain the support of the motorist."

£1 billion of fraud, found!

The National Fraud Initiative (NFI), established in 1996, this week confirmed it has now helped identify over £1 billion potentially lost to fraud, overpayment or error, across the UK.

The outcomes include the prevention and detection of 15,000 cases of pension overpayments worth £450 million, almost 100,000 cases of council tax single person discounts incorrectly awarded worth £160 million and over £250 million of housing benefit overpayments. In addition, 68,736 blue badges and 97,361 concessionary travel passes have been cancelled.

Chairman of the Audit Commission, Jeremy Newman, says: 'The NFI is

a powerful weapon in the fight to protect taxpayers' money from fraud. I applaud the commitment of the scheme's participants. The vigilance of organisations from local councils to central government departments, supplying essential data and investigating potential frauds flagged up by the initiative, has paid off to the tune of £1 billion. We are working hard to ensure this valuable legacy of the Audit Commission continues to benefit the public.'

The Audit Commission's 17-year-old initiative compares data held by: 1,300 public sector and 77 private sector organisations. These include sister audit bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, government departments and other national agencies. It flags up inconsistencies in data that potentially indicate a

fraud is taking place, and signals the need for a closer investigation.

The initiative helps detect one-off individual frauds or error, as well as serious wide-scale organised crime. It helps find patterns in fraud activity that might otherwise be missed at a local level, for example if activities are repeated over a large geographical area or masked by false identities. It helps provide a national picture of fraud and highlights some emerging fraud risks.

The NFI has introduced real-time and flexible matching alongside the traditional two-yearly national matching NFI exercise. The new modules align with the government's key policies focusing on protecting the UK economy from fraud. The NFI now allows a participant to hunt for frauds more often and

to tailor their search to best suit their needs, for example: undertaking regular data matching to target tenancy fraud in a geographical area.

Soakaway collapse causing 2.5km pollution - farmer fined £2000

A farmer has been fined £2000 after his drainage system collapsed, grossly polluting over two kilometres of watercourse.

John Alan Dale, of Somerset Farm, Cants Drove, Murrow, Wisbech, appeared at Peterborough Magistrates Court in March. He was also ordered to pay a £2500 contribution to costs.

A soakaway collapsed causing waste effluent stored in pits to empty into a ditch on site that connected to a tributary of the Bishoplands Drain. The pollution was black and had a strong septic smell.

The Environment Agency sent an officer to investigate on 24 April 2012, after receiving a report of

pollution from the Internal Drainage Board. The officer traced the pollution to Somerset Farm, where Dale told him that a new soakaway constructed a month before had leaked into the watercourse. The officer saw that a ditch on site ran adjacent to the soakaway within three metres of it.

Steps were taken to remedy the pollution, and monitoring tests revealed that the watercourse had recovered by 4 May.

Although there was no evidence that fish were harmed by this incident, there was the potential to impact fish as the New Wryde Drain, situated 3.7 kilometres downstream of the point of entry of the pollution, supports a varied

coarse fish population.

Claire Corfield, Solicitor for the Environment Agency, said: "An Environment Agency biologist visited and surveyed the watercourse to determine the impact on invertebrates. He concluded that there was a substantial impact on the community for over two kilometres."

Dale informed the Environment Agency that he installed the drainage system and pits when he first started operating from Somerset Farm 12 years ago. The liquid in the pits comprised run off from the animal feed stored in the yard, rainfall and a small amount of run-off from the cattle's bedding.

The soakaway was installed three years ago and liquid filters from the pits to the soakaway. He sought the advice of a builder, but

did not consult the Agency. Dale believed the liquid in the pits was dirty water, but since learnt that it was highly polluting. A rabbit had burrowed into the soakaway, resulting in half of the effluent in the pits emptying to the ditch.

He did not hold a permit to discharge to the ditch. Dale believed he was doing nothing wrong and said he would never have discharged if he had known he did not have the necessary authorisation.

Speaking after the hearing, Environment Agency officer Richard Williams said: "The defendant did not consult the Agency on construction of the soakaway. He failed to obtain an environmental permit and to ensure that contaminated effluent was adequately treated before disposal to the soakaway and watercourse.

"Contaminated effluent should be properly treated before discharge to a soakaway, and the system should be located in a position that ensures it does not affect surface watercourses or groundwater."

Environmental permits issued for new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C in Somerset

The Environment Agency has issued three new environmental permits to NNB Generation Company Limited (NNB GenCo) for their proposed new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C in Somerset.

The permits are required for the station to operate and will allow it to:

- Discharge and dispose of radioactive wastes;
- Discharge cooling water and liquid effluents into the Bristol Channel; and
- Operate standby power supply systems using diesel generators.

The limits and conditions that the Environment Agency has set in the permits will ensure that

people and the environment are properly protected.

Copies of documents including the Environment Agency's Decision Documents are available at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/hinkleypoint.

NNB GenCo's permit applications were made to the Environment Agency in summer 2011. The decisions to issue the permits came after the Environment Agency had carefully considered all of the responses that it had received to both public consultations that it held on the applications, and on its draft decisions. Comments received included those from organisations such as the Health Protection Agency and Natural

England, from other interested organisations, and from people living in the area of the proposed power station.

Brian Payne, the Environment Agency's Hinkley Point C Project Manager, said "The environmental permits we've issued for Hinkley Point C set limits and conditions that will ensure people and the environment will be properly protected. I'd like to thank all who responded to our public consultations. We've carefully considered all of the comments we received and the documents we are publishing today explain our decisions".

Any media enquiries should be directed to the Environment Agency press office on 01392 442008



Wales increases its resilience to climate change

The Welsh Government has published statutory guidance for public services on 'Preparing for a Changing Climate'.

It will assist organisations such as local authorities, health services, the Fire Service, Natural Resources Wales and the National Park Authorities assess how they may be affected by climate change and produce plans to manage it.

For example, a health board will look at how extreme weather events will impact on their ability to maintain service levels and if necessary handle extra numbers of patients. Issues to consider in a changing climate include keeping buildings open, staffing them, providing an ambulance service and dealing with extra demands on services.

Environment Minister, John Griffiths, said:

"It is very apt that we are launching this guidance during Climate Week. The Welsh Government is committed to taking action on things that benefit people's everyday lives.

"We are all aware of the impact our changing, and at times extreme, weather can have on our neighbourhoods, cities and country. The guidance being published today provides practical advice for public bodies to put in place sustainable plans to manage it.

"I look forward to seeing how organisations across Wales find positive solutions to address these challenges."

New figures highlight the ongoing challenge of TB

The spread of bovine TB led to the slaughter of 28,284 cattle in England in 2012, a 7% increase compared to 2011.

New statistics highlight the growing impact of the disease on the UK dairy and beef industry and emphasise the need to take urgent action to reduce the spread of TB.

Farming Minister David Heath said:

"Bovine TB continues to spread at an unacceptable rate, leading to the slaughter of thousands of cattle and ongoing misery for our dairy farmers.

"What was once confined to a small area of the south west has the potential to become a national crisis and if left unchecked could cost the taxpayer £1 billion over the next ten years. We cannot afford to sit back and let this happen, which is why we are doing everything we can to get on top of this dreadful disease."

Other key figures published today show:

The number of TB tests carried out in 2012 in England was 5,849,498, up from 5,493,311 in 2011. This reflects the increased testing being undertaken to monitor the spread of the disease.

The number of new TB incidents in herds was 3,941 – an increase of 5% from 2011 (3763 incidents)

In 2011 26,480 cattle were slaughtered in England as a result of TB.





Furniture Design and Innovation

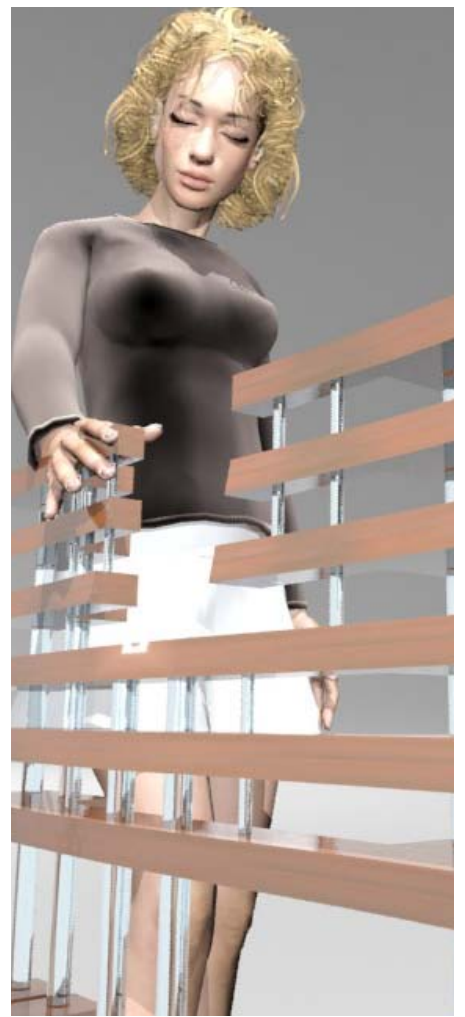
welters-windsors Chair Range

The company is celebrating its return to the 'of the moment' Windsor Chair production through the innovative interpretation of manufacturing styles and materials in a comprehensive and all embracing range of furniture elements.

The imaginative design embraces a wide selection of configurations and material variations.

Throughout generations, **welters®** skills and craftsmanship have been continually reflected in the design and manufacture of fine furniture and continue today to be exponents of progressive design.

welters® are part of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers.





Burial chamber provision on rise

Burial chamber provision is becoming more common primarily due to increased public awareness and burial authorities seeking to extend their service provision.

welters® has carried out many large installations over the years and not just burial chambers. The above ground architectural detail is vital to each schemes success.

Burial chamber memorial housings are designed and manufactured by **welters®** and provide a wide choice of dressing and memorial options in stone and granite.



Rising Demand for more Burial Choice

A rising number of burial authorities are including mausolea and burial chamber interment facilities as additional options for the bereaved. As the demand increases, **welters®** have remained ahead of the curve promoting and developing affordable quality systems for interment.

The company provides a comprehensive service surrounding their above and below ground interment products which are carefully thought out and designed to support and compliment in both practical and aesthetic terms.

Burial chambers are available with varied specifications and a choice of ancillary memorial

housings inscription services. A mausoleum can be of bespoke design for a single family or serve a community. **welters®** support packages also provide full training, 24/7 interment support and guaranteed workmanship for peace of mind. Partnership programmes and part or fully funded schemes have made it easier for burial authorities to implement new schemes for their service users.



Payday lender loses its licence after OFT action

Online payday lender, MCO Capital Limited ('MCO'), has had its consumer credit licence revoked by the OFT and is no longer permitted to make regulated loans to UK consumers.

The news follows the recent OFT payday lending review report, which uncovered evidence of widespread unfair business practices in the sector.

In August 2012, the OFT found that MCO had failed to put in place adequate identity checks for loan applicants. It is thought that this failure led to MCO being targeted by fraudsters who used the personal details of over 7,000 individuals to apply successfully for loans totalling millions of pounds.

The OFT also found that

MCO had engaged in unfair business practices by writing to people who it was aware may not have taken out loans, asking unequivocally for repayment. MCO ignored OFT requests to stop this practice.

Additionally, the OFT found that MCO lacked the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to run a consumer credit business.

For all these reasons, the OFT decided to revoke MCO's consumer credit licence. MCO appealed the OFT's decision, but with effect from today withdrew its appeal. MCO is continuing to appeal the OFT's decision to impose a financial penalty of £544,505 for breaches of the Money Laundering

Regulations 2007.

David Fisher, OFT Director of Credit, said:

'Removing MCO's licence is a timely reminder that payday and other lenders risk losing their licences if they engage in unfair business practices. The way MCO chased consumers for debts they did not owe was unacceptable and caused unnecessary distress to many people.'

Consumers who are pursued by a lender for a debt they do not owe should write to the lender and, where appropriate, the debt collection agency, making it clear why payment is being refused. Further information on what consumers can do is available in this Consumer Fact Sheet and Advice Guide, produced by the Credit Services Association.



Government Procurement Service has awarded a new contract to NQC Limited to develop a Single Supplier Registration platform.



A new centralised system will make it easier and cheaper for suppliers to compete for government and public sector opportunities, Minister for the Cabinet Office Francis Maude, has announced. The new system will mean suppliers only have to register once to have access to a range of contracts.

Currently, suppliers to government and the public

sector have to register on several systems to be able to view, access and tender for business opportunities, making it onerous and time-consuming, especially for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), to bid for contracts.

Government Procurement Service (GPS) has awarded a new contract to NQC Limited to develop an efficient and secure Single Supplier Registration platform. The new cross-government system will replace an existing system with over 80,000 registered suppliers and almost 80,000 customers using it.

Francis Maude, who yesterday visited civil servants at the GPS's Newport office said: "We've

always said we want to simplify the procurement process, and it won't make it easier for new suppliers to bid for government business if we're asking them to register on several systems in order to access these opportunities."

"That's why we asked GPS to bring together the current myriad systems and tools into one single place of registration, holding accurate and up-to-date information on suppliers.

It's simple and innovative; it will reduce the time and cost spent tendering for government business – especially important for SMEs – and will improve how we share analysis of supplier financial information across

government."

"And in awarding the contract to NQC Limited, a SME based in Manchester, we're showing exactly how government is actively providing more opportunities for SMEs to do business with us."

The new registration platform will be available from April 2013, for the health sector and will extend across other sectors in following months.

Government Deficit and Debt Under the Maastricht Treaty, Calendar Year 2012

In 2012, general government deficit (or net borrowing) was £97.8 billion, equivalent to 6.3% of gross domestic product (GDP) – down from 7.8% of GDP in 2011 and 10.2% of GDP in 2010.

At end December 2012, general government gross consolidated debt at nominal value was £1,387.4 billion, equivalent to 90.0% of GDP – up from 85.5% at end of 2011 and 79.4% at end of 2010.

Feral German child's grave listed



The final resting place of a feral German child, adopted as a sort of 'court pet' by the Royal family of George I in the early eighteenth century, has been listed

The Grade II listing follows expert advice from English Heritage.

Peter was discovered as a teenager, apparently abandoned in a forest near Hanover in 1724, dishevelled, unable to speak and walking on all fours. Following a visit by George I – who was also Elector of Hanover – he was invited to England where he lived, firstly as a curiosity in the King's court and later, as his novelty waned, to become a farm labourer in Northchurch, Hertfordshire.

It is now believed he suffered from a chromosomal disorder called Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome. He died, aged 72, and was buried in St Mary's Church. The gravestone is said to have been paid for by local people, and flowers are regularly laid on it to this day.

Ed Vaizey said: "Peter the Wild Boy's story is both

extremely interesting and, at the same time, poignant and unsettling. It also reminds us how far public attitudes to disability have changed. His gravestone survives in good condition and has considerable historic interest. Its preservation will help to keep his extraordinary history alive for many generations to come."

Tony Calladine, designation team leader at English Heritage, added:

"This is a fascinating story of a significant figure in the country's history of disability. Listing marks special historic interest, so is very appropriate for the headstone of Peter the Wild Boy, given the intrigue in his story both in Georgian England and today.

Sun boss Geoff Webster to face misconduct charges

Deputy editor of The Sun newspaper Geoff Webster has appeared at the Old Bailey accused of authorising payments to public officials in exchange for information.

He is accused of two counts of misconduct in public office with allegations that he authorised a payment of £6,500 to a public official between July 2010 and August 2011, and also the payment of £1,500 to another official made in November 2010.

Mr Webster was charged as part of Operation Elveden, Scotland Yard's investigation into alleged corrupt payments to public officials and was remanded on unconditional bail to reappear at a hearing on June 6.



Polygon Tower Niche Repository

The Polygon Tower has attractive stone and granite front tablets and stainless steel inscribable Doves, Leaves and Butterfly tracery for further commemoration.

All tablets are available with a range of motifs and ceramic photo options.

Each niche position can accept up to two **welters®** bespoke cremated remains caskets. The total capacity of the Polygon Tower is 306 interments in **welters®** bespoke cremation caskets.

The front tablets for the niches can be interchanged with stainless steel units if requested. These units can be utilised for the secure display of personalised keepsakes and each keepsake door has a key for security and is fronted with toughened glass.

The design incorporates 153 double interment niches with any combination of either black granite tablets or stainless steel lockable doors and is now available nationally.



Infrared surveillance cameras monitoring badger visits to cattle farms

Infrared surveillance cameras monitoring badger visits to cattle farms will be used in a new study to determine the risk faced by individual farms of badgers entering buildings.

Surveillance cameras will be installed at 75 volunteer farms across South West England for the project run by the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA).

Over a four week period, cameras will count the number of badger visits to farms, and determine what factors encourage badgers to regularly visit farm buildings.

Wildlife Program Team Leader, Dr Gavin Wilson, said: "Recent research has shown that badger

visits to farm buildings are widespread and common, but that some farms are more prone to badger visits than others."

"The purpose of our current project is to try to understand the reasons behind this, and develop a simple method to assess the risk of badger visits to any given farm."

"Ultimately, this is about helping farmers determine what the best bio-security measures are for their individual farms."

A survey for badger activity will be carried out near the farm buildings and details of farming practices e.g. cattle feeds, local crops, and landscape features will also be recorded.

The research is the second phase of the Farm Assessment Tool project initially launched by Food and Environment Agency (Fera) last year.

Previous Defra funded research confirmed badger visits to farm buildings are common and widespread on cattle farms in South West England, but also that this could be prevented by the adoption of exclusion measures.

These measures include protecting buildings and farm areas susceptible to wildlife visits such as feed stores, by installing secure gates or electric fencing, and securing feed bags and bins.

Farmers who are interested in volunteering for this study should contact the AHVLA on 01453 861400 or wildlife@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

West Midlands police office on charges of misconduct in a public office

Osman Iqbal, 35, a police officer from Birmingham, has been charged with conspiring to operate a brothel, money laundering and drug related offences.

The West Midlands police officer has also been charged with five counts of misconduct in a public office.

The charges are the result of investigations from the force's anti-corruption unit resulting in Iqbal's suspension from the force while he awaits trial along with nine other people from Birmingham and the London area.

They are due to appear at Nuneaton Magistrates Court on April 30th.

The future of the UK's oil stocking system is being considered by a consultation launched by Government

The future of the UK's oil stocking system is being considered by a consultation launched by Government.

Views are being invited on whether the present obligation on suppliers to hold stocks is the most efficient model or if an alternative system such as centralised stocking agency, similar to that of other EU member states, would be more appropriate.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey said: "The UK has a strong history ensuring a resilient and responsive oil stocking system that meets our international obligations and provides energy security.

"A large part of that success has been the close working relationship we have with industry. We are launching this consultation to ensure our oil stocking system continues to follow best practice, remains fit for purpose and provides the foundation to a vibrant UK oil industry."

As a member state of the EU and the International Energy Agency (IEA), the UK is required to hold emergency oil stocks for use in an oil supply disruption.

UK Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA) represents oil refining and marketing companies in the UK and Director General Chris Hunt said:

"UKPIA welcomes the Consultation on UK's Compulsory Stocking, and would support the establishment of an independent stockholding agency to manage the CSO going forward. We welcome DECC's commitment to examine the case for this approach, and look forward to responding to this key consultation."

The Downstream Fuel Association (DFA) represents UK fuel supply chain companies and Chief Executive Teresa Sayers said: "The DFA supports the Government's oil stocking consultation and in particular DECC's consideration of a centralised stocking agency. This is a unique opportunity to ensure the UK finds the most cost effective way to comply with its international oil stocking obligations."

Complaints against doctors not being reported by hospitals

Hospitals are failing to share data which could reveal doctors who continually make mistakes.

BBC Radio 5 Live recently carried out research and found a number of NHS trusts had paid compensation to patients following repeated allegations against doctors but the complaints had not been reported to the General Medical Council (GMC).

The study found that some doctors had been involved in up to six incidents, none of which had been reported to the council.

Out of 163 hospitals looked at, 13 had not reported issues to the GMC involving at least one doctor despite compensation being paid out since 2008 and some of those doctors have since moved to other hospitals who are unaware of their history.

The percentage of the population with no religion has increased in England and Wales

Despite falling numbers, Christianity remained the largest religion in 2011

In the 2011 Census for England and Wales, 59.3% of the usual resident population (33.2 million people) identified as Christian. Muslims made up the second largest religious group with 4.8% of the population (2.7 million people). A quarter of the

population (14.1 million people) reported they had no religion.

The Other main religious groups people identified with were: Hindu (1.5% of population); Sikh (0.8%); Jewish (0.5%) and Buddhist (0.4%). Some religions people identified with do not fall into any of the main religious groups¹ (0.4%), such as Pagan and Spiritualist. Overall, 7.2% of people did not answer the question on religious affiliation, the only voluntary question in the 2011 Census.

Between 2001 and 2011 there was a decrease in the proportion of people who identify as Christian (from 71.7% to 59.3%) and an

increase in those reporting no religion (from 14.8% to 25.1%). There were increases in the other main religious group categories, with the number of Muslims increasing the most (from 3.0% to 4.8%).

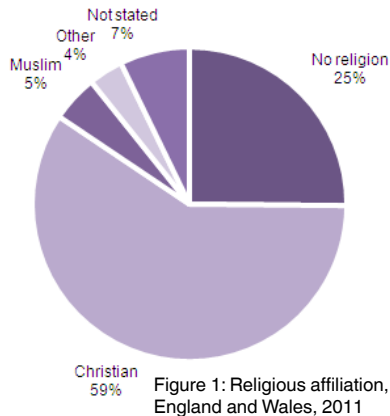
In 2011, London was the most diverse region in terms of religious affiliation with the lowest proportion of people who identified with Christianity (just under half) and over a fifth of the population identifying

with another religion. The North East and North West had the highest proportion of people who said they were Christian with two-thirds of the population. Wales had the highest proportion of people reporting no religion at nearly a third of the population. The region with the lowest proportion of people reporting no religion was the North West with less than a fifth of the population.

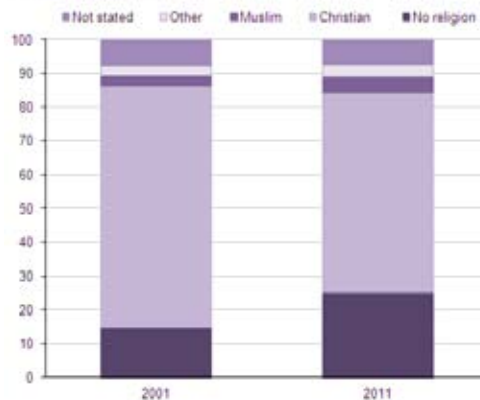
Knowsley was the local authority with the highest proportion of people reporting to be Christians at 80.9% and Tower Hamlets had the highest proportion of Muslims at 34.5%

(over seven times the England and Wales figure). Norwich had the highest proportion of the population reporting no religion at 42.5%.

Source: Office for National Statistics



Percentage of population





Taking inspiration from the natural world



New cremation interment and memorial facilities installed at crematorium

The Cremation Colonnade is spanned by a decorative stainless steel Portico of Peace™ arch incorporating doves, leaves and butterflies.

Arrangements of cremated remains interment niches are fitted into the brick wall giving the opportunity for tablet inscription.

The reflective Tree of Life™ panels add depth and light to the colonnade, transforming the area into a refreshing, peaceful location.

Individual doves, leaves and butterflies can be purchased separately and inscribed with a special message. These can then be 'clipped on' to the branches of either the Portico of Peace™ arch or the Tree of Life™ features.



A row of stainless steel keepsake niches are available on each niche arrangement, giving the opportunity for the secure storing of keepsakes and artefacts.

The Living Cemetery

by Keith Welters



'Neptune Baby and Child Memorial Garden'

Back in 2007, Cabe, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, stated: "Design cemeteries for the living, not just the dead." Pointing out that up to half of all the green space in some urban boroughs are used as burial grounds and with forward and imaginative planning they could become pleasant places to visit for mourners and non-mourners alike.

Thankfully, an increasing number of Burial Authorities are realising the asset that a well managed cemetery can be to both the community and the Authority itself.

Progressive cemeteries are moving away from

depressing rows of bland upright granite headstones and introducing creative design and original facilities echoing the Victorian age where cemeteries were infused with interesting art and architecture.

A cemetery should provide dignified places of rest for our loved ones in an environment that provides those left behind with a meaningful focus in which to mourn and find solace during the initial stages of grief and later as life inevitably moves on, a place of commemoration and celebration.

This ethos encapsulates welters® Cemetery Village® schemes in providing

interesting and thoughtful designs and facilities for above and below ground interment.

Our company needed to look past an individual provision of product and examine the whole picture.

People's expectations have risen over the past twenty years. Families particularly at present have a real awareness of the need for a sensitive commemorative environment for child bereavement and they now demand more choice than just earthen burial or cremation and we have been at the vanguard of these expectations.

Our Cemetery Village schemes are designed to provide practical and affordable facilities for the Burial Authority with more interment choice for the bereaved within beautiful, landscaped and peaceful settings.



Large Majestic community mausoleum building



Cremated remains Basilica interment gardens



Children's memorial feature and burial chamber gardens

How can we limit dangerous climate change?

According to the UK and OECD experts, it's getting more difficult and expensive the longer we delay action.

Now it's not so much a question of avoiding dangerous climate change but of acting now to limit it however we can.

The Hadley Centre, part of the UK Meteorological Office, visited the OECD to present their latest research on climate projections and impacts. At a lunchtime seminar attended by OECD and International Energy Agency (IEA) staff, the Hadley Centre noted that, without concerted international action, rising carbon dioxide emissions could lead to a global mean temperature rise of more than 5 °C by 2100

– regionally in excess of 10 °C, but that the scale of climate change is greatly reduced with early and rapid reductions in emissions. The Centre's work also shows that human influence has increased the odds of extreme weather events in some cases.

A significant part of the Hadley Centre's work is linked to climate forecasting, monitoring, and gathering the evidence needed to inform international policy and mitigate dangerous climate change. Crucially, they are also looking at how climate change could impact on real people's lives. According to the Hadley Centre, if unmitigated and temperatures rise by 4 degrees Celsius,

an additional 975 million people could face difficulties in finding water and the yield of crops could drop by 18 per cent. There will also be impacts on the global energy structure and global commodity change.

Helen Mountford from the OECD's Environment Directorate emphasised that the OECD relies heavily on the work of climate scientists like the Hadley Centre to underpin their analysis. The OECD (with its sister body the IEA) plays a key role in working on cross-cutting aspects of climate policy, including examining the impact of climate change on trade and tax as well as critical work on mobilising climate finance .





Neptune memorial feature with Desktop surround



Child Fairy feature

Baby and Child Memorial and Interment products

welters® baby memorials and interment systems are suitable for burial or cremated remains interment and are available in a range of styles catering for the specific needs of parents in the deepest loss of all.

Facilities are sensitively developed with original and bespoke features such as the Neptune or Child Fairy gardens and can contain a combination of communal and private interment options as required.

Basilica housing and Desktop designs are pre installed to accept granite inscribed plaques which can be prepared and ready to fix at the time of interment.



Baby frame for communal burial chamber grave



Basilica child chambers

welters® burial systems incorporate a sealed chamber or niche and are available for stillborn, baby and child interment and are a viable option for Burial Authorities seeking to offer bereaved parents an alternative to cremation.

Heatwave Plan for England published

Public Health England has published the Heatwave Plan for 2013 to raise organisational, public and professional awareness of the potential dangers to health from severe hot weather.

The Plan's purpose is to enhance resilience in the event of a heatwave and to describe the actions which can be taken to protect and improve health before and during such an event.

The Heatwave Plan is underpinned by the Heat-Health Watch alert system which has been developed with the Met Office to alert key stakeholders to the likelihood of severe hot weather in different parts of the country, so they can take appropriate action.

The Plan, which has been revised this year to reflect the organisational changes in health care and public health, has been produced collaboratively with PHE's partners in the Department of Health, NHS England, the Local Government Association and the Met Office. It also emphasises the importance of long-term joint working throughout the year to reduce the impact of climate change and take appropriate measures to prepare for severe heatwaves.

Dr Angie Bone, who is coordinating the Heatwave Plan for PHE, said: "While many people enjoy sunny weather, high temperatures can be dangerous, especially for people who may be particularly vulnerable such as older

people, young children and those with serious illnesses. There is consistent and extensive evidence from around the world that exposure to excessive heat kills, with most cases of illness and death caused by heart and lung disease.

The Heatwave Plan is an important component of overall emergency planning and sets out a series of clear actions that can be taken by healthcare organisations, local authorities, professionals working with vulnerable people, and individuals to help keep people safe during extreme heat. To avoid the devastating consequences of a heatwave, we strongly encourage each locality to consider the actions in this plan and adapt them to their local situation, as a component of wider resilience planning and long-term climate change

adaptation arrangements."

A copy of the Heatwave Plan for England 2013, factsheets for healthcare staff and a public information leaflet are available the www.gov.uk website



Multi level, multi interment option Cemetery Village® scheme



This image shows a new impressive **welters®** multi level, multi interment option Cemetery Village® scheme in progress. The design maximises burial density whilst providing the look and feel of an open and spacious public space. It has been installed on a fixed price basis in and

on very wet, difficult ground conditions as phase one of a rolling programme within a 5 year framework contract for a major London Authority.

This inspiring new Cemetery Village®, fully designed and built by **welters®**, includes the impressive 49 interment

Embankment Coliseum Mausoleum comprising of an amalgamation of **welters®** own UK manufactured front charging and side charging mausolea units with integrated niches for cremated remains interments. The mausoleum has been carefully designed to provide the retention required

to split the ground levels of the cemetery section without losing valuable burial space on a steep gradient.

Additionally, the scheme boasts 32 below ground, double interment burial chambers with **welters®** full Classic Memorial Systems, a new road, DDA access, planting zones and drainage.

