

Government *WORLD*TM



Summer 2013 Edition

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Cover picture
Leaf sculpture

Back cover picture
Daffodils in Spring 2013

A Family Mausoleum for Cremated Remains

Family Mausoleums

Family mausoleum structures are a common sight in most cemeteries. The Victorian era was especially prolific in mausoleum construction and many of our established burial grounds contain fine examples of this very personal method of

interment. They provided a place pilgrimage for a single family and many found great comfort in knowing their loved ones were together and that they too would one day join them.

became very utilitarian in their approach to interment facilities. Modern Family Mausoleum Thankfully this trend is now changing and mausoleum burial is gaining popularity in the UK today and many Burial Authorities now plan a choice of community and family mausolea facilities in their service provisions for the bereaved.

Cremated Remains above Ground

Similarly, many crematoriums are now offering a choice of cremated remains interment above ground with spaces in niche walls or columbaria.



Polygon Niche Tower

These communal facilities provide a much needed alternative to below ground interment or scattering of the remains but many people also feel the need for something more personal to them. A place to inter their loved ones' remains without sharing the facility with people they do not know.

Family Mausoleum for Cremated Remains

Applying the family mausoleum concept to cremated remains offers a solution to this need.



Majestic™ Memorial Family Mausoleum

A single repository designed for multiple cremated remains caskets and owned by one family will provide a very personal memorial and interment facility.

Majestic™ Memorial Family Mausoleum

The Majestic™ Memorial Mausoleum is an example of this type of repository and is designed and manufactured exclusively by welters®. The standard model is designed to house up to four cremated remains caskets and due to the modular nature of the system can be extended as required.



Example showing extended options

Nationwide Availability

The mausoleum for cremated remains is being adopted by crematoria across the UK providing families with the option for clean, above ground interment and a private space for loved ones to visit and the peace of mind for future provision.

Supply of this product is available outside the UK exclusively through welters®

Surveillance camera code of conduct comes into force

Public authority use of surveillance cameras will be subject to a new code of practice published by the Home Office in June.

The code will set out new guidelines for CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), encourage transparency in their use and ensure public bodies such as local authorities and the police consider whether they are proportionate before erecting new cameras.

It follows Andrew Rennison's appointment as the first Surveillance Camera Commissioner last year.

The commissioner's role is to encourage all operators to comply with the code, review how the

code is used in practice and provide advice and information about it.

The principle of surveillance by consent is at the heart of the new legislation – meaning the public can be confident cameras are not there to spy on them but to protect them.

Minister for Criminal Information Lord Taylor of Holbeach said:

“CCTV and ANPR are crucial tools for cutting crime and protecting the public, but for too long we have seen these systems grow without proper oversight.”

“Through this code – and with an independent commissioner – there will be a framework in place

for the first time that helps police and local authorities in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour, while reassuring the public that cameras in public places are used proportionately and effectively.”

The surveillance camera code of practice, which has been laid before Parliament for approval, is part of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.



Badger culls to go ahead this summer



The pilot culls will last for 6 weeks and will be repeated annually for four years.

Two pilot badger culls to tackle the spread of bovine TB will go ahead this summer in West Gloucestershire and West Somerset, Environment Secretary Owen Paterson has confirmed.

Speaking at the National Farmers Union (NFU) annual conference, Mr Paterson announced that authorisation letters have been issued by Natural England confirming the

culls can proceed this summer.

Mr Paterson also announced a reserve pilot will also be prepared in Dorset in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent one of the cull areas from being used. This is part of the ongoing planning to ensure there are no delays to the cull proceeding this year.

Owen Paterson, Environment Secretary, said:

“Bovine TB is spreading at an alarming rate and causing real devastation to our beef and dairy industry. The authorisation letters issued today confirming culling can proceed this summer in West Gloucestershire and West

Somerset is an important step towards taking the action we need to tackle the spread of this disease in wildlife.”

“I am determined that there are no further delays this year. That is why we have taken the sensible step with the farming industry to elect a reserve area that can be called upon should anything happen to prevent culling in Somerset or Gloucestershire.”

“These pilot culls are just one part of our approach to control and eradicate this dreadful disease. We are using everything at our disposal to get to grips with TB including new tougher controls on moving cattle, increased herd testing and working to get effective vaccines ready as soon as possible.”

The experience of countries such as the Republic of

Ireland, the United States, Australia and New Zealand shows that TB in cattle cannot be controlled without also tackling the disease in the surrounding wildlife. In New Zealand, the number of infected cattle and deer herds has been reduced from 1,700 in the mid 1990s to fewer than 100 in 2011. This is as a result of rigorous bio-security measures, strict cattle movement controls and proactive wildlife management.

The authorisation letters issued by Natural England mean that culling will be able to proceed at any point from 1 June. The pilot culls will last for 6 weeks and will be repeated annually for four years.

The pilots are being carried out to test the chosen method of culling through free shooting. The pilots will be independently assessed to check the method is both effective in removing enough badgers and humane.

The reserve pilot in Dorset will be prepared in the same way as the two licensed areas so that it is ready to proceed if necessary in the summer.

RSPCA outraged after badger cull announced for summer 2013

Reserve cull area in Dorset being 'prepared'

The RSPCA are outraged that the Government have ignored public, parliamentary, EU Commission and scientific opinion and announced that it will be going ahead with plans for badger cull this summer.

Plans for these pilot culls had been due to go ahead last autumn but were postponed but in February. Defra issued a statement saying that the final licences had been granted and that the culls would go ahead from June. They also said they were 'preparing' a third pilot cull area in Dorset.

RSPCA Chief Executive Gavin Grant said: "Despite

overwhelming scientific, public and parliamentary opposition the Government seems hell bent on pressing forward with their senseless plans to kill badgers.

"All the evidence shows that the answer to the problems of bovine TB in cattle does not lie in a cull that will be an ineffective, wasteful and potentially damaging to the welfare of both farm and wild animals.

"We care about cattle and badgers alike and have great sympathy for the farmers dealing with the effects of this disease – but killing badgers is not the answer."

Back in February, the EU commission gave evidence to the government and said that the only way to get rid

of the disease in cattle was to improve cattle movement restrictions, and that the UK was the one of the few countries in the EU that allowed so much cattle movement.

Vaccinations of both badgers and cattle along with more effective biosecurity is the way forward to secure the welfare of both cattle and badgers and the long term livelihood of farmers.

The RSPCA stands ready to work alongside all those seeking to develop and implement a badger vaccination and biosecurity campaign as the alternative to this barbaric cull.



New vaccine offers babies protection against rotavirus



Rotavirus infection is the most common cause of gastroenteritis (vomiting and diarrhoea) in children under 5.

Nearly every child will develop rotavirus gastroenteritis by 5 years of age. Rotavirus gastroenteritis is responsible for 130,000 visits to the GP and 13,000 hospitalisations for dehydration every year.

Dr Paul Cosford, Director for Health Protection

and Medical Director at Public Health England (PHE), said: “Rotavirus is a highly infectious and unpleasant illness that affects thousands of young children each year. While most recover within a few days, nearly 1 in 5 will need to see their doctor, and 1 in 10 will end up in hospital as a result.

“Although good hygiene measures can help prevent spread of the disease, the best way to protect your baby from catching rotavirus is to get them vaccinated.

“The new vaccine will provide protection to those young babies who are most vulnerable to complications arising from rotavirus. From now on parents will be offered this protection alongside their baby’s other

childhood vaccinations.”

The rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix, will be given orally to babies at 2 and 3 months of age. It is hoped the vaccine will halve the number of rotavirus cases each year and lead to 70% fewer hospital stays.

The introduction of the rotavirus vaccine is one of a number of new or amended vaccination programmes being introduced by PHE this year, in partnership with the Department of Health and NHS England. Additional protection against shingles, meningococcal group C and flu will be introduced later this year.

Badger cull purpose is to reduce bovine TB in cattle (Government Statement)

The myth

Several newspapers including The Sunday Times, The Daily Mirror, The Sun and The Daily Mail have claimed that the purpose of the badger culls this summer are primarily to protect human health.

The truth

The purpose of the pilot badger culls is to reduce bovine TB in cattle, due to the disease’s huge impact on the farming industry, rural communities and taxpayers. Last year 28,000 cattle were slaughtered as a result of bovine TB, and fighting the disease cost the taxpayer £100 million. If the disease is not brought under control by tackling TB in cattle and wildlife, costs to the tax payer over the next ten years could top £1 billion.

While humans can contract TB, it is currently quite rare and those who have close contact with infected animals or who drink unpasteurised milk are most at risk. In June, the European Food Safety Authority published a scientific opinion which stated that there is no evidence of meat-borne transmission of bovine TB in the EU.

Deputy Prime Minister visits Croatia to celebrate EU accession

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg travelled to Zagreb, Croatia on Sunday 30 June to attend a dinner celebrating the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union.

Guests included Presidents Barroso and Van Rompuy, and Prime Minister Tusk of Poland.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "On behalf of the UK, I offer sincere congratulations to the people of the Republic of Croatia on the historic occasion of their accession to the European Union as its 28th Member State. The UK looks forward to working together with Croatia as partners in the EU, as we already do through our partnership in NATO.

"Croatia's EU membership offers both countries an unparalleled opportunity to forge stronger links. We look forward to expanding further our commercial and political relationship, both at the EU level and bilaterally.

"Croatia's accession demonstrates clearly for her neighbours the transformative power of EU enlargement which, when matched with the political will and perseverance that the Croatian people have shown, can deliver impressive change and benefits. We look forward to working together with Croatia to help support the European perspectives of all of the countries of the western Balkans and for Turkey."

Why we reject the Tory idea of an amnesty for illegal immigrants

Tory Nadhim Zahawi has called on the Government to grant an amnesty for more than 500,000 illegal immigrants in a vain attempt to make the Conservative Party more appealing to the immigrant vote.

UKIP Leader Nigel Farage said: "Mr Zahawi is seen as a rising star in the Tory party. In order to curry favour with minority voters he wants to legitimise half a million illegal immigrants, thus giving them full access to all welfare benefits. The clue, if he is interested, is in the word 'illegal'.

"To do this, in order to shore up failing poll ratings for the Conservative Party would be to sacrifice the interests of the

country to narrow sectional political considerations.

"It shows that the Conservatives cannot be trusted on immigration any more than the Labour Party can.

"Our immigration system is disastrous and our treatment of migrants is frequently appalling, but all international experience of migration amnesties shows us that they encourage more inward migration.

"Claims that the UK would be immune from this as it is an island are risible. If so, there wouldn't be at least 500,000 illegal immigrants here in the first place."



Labour 'to review planned schools'

Stephen Twigg says free schools would remain open should Labour win the next election



Shadow education secretary Stephen Twigg says a Labour government would review the case for each of the 180 free schools scheduled to open in the year of the next election.

Decisions depended on how far advanced the plans were and whether they were in locations with school place shortages.

Mr Twigg told the BBC that he did not like free schools, but he was not intending to close any that were open.

Instead they would have to become part of the "local community of schools".

Mr Twigg told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show that he would also change the rules for free schools so they could no longer employ unqualified teachers.

This would bring them into line with other schools, he said.

In the government's Spending Review last week it announced funding for the year starting in April 2015 – a few weeks before the next election – for 180 new free schools.

Mr Twigg said that decisions on whether to go ahead with these schools would depend on how much had already been spent on creating the new schools, and whether they were in locations with a need for more school places.

It was put to Mr Twigg that Labour's policy on free schools was confusing – especially

because of its plan to let parents set up academy schools.

Local control

He said: "The policy is very clear. The policy is about having good schools in every community and not being fixated, as this government is, on one type of school over another.

"If you want a new school now it has to be a free school. That doesn't make sense. You can have a good maintained school, a good academy, a good trust school. Why is it that the government thinks the only way you can get good new schools is through their free schools programme?"

Mr Twigg also said that Labour's proposed new schools were different from free schools because they would not allow unqualified teachers to be employed and "because decisions are going to be made at a local level – not overriding local communities".

"I've been to visit communities where communities

overwhelmingly didn't want the school to be created – that doesn't make any sense."

Former Labour MP and foreign secretary David Miliband, who has not trained as a teacher, has been teaching classes at his old school, but Mr Twigg denied this would not be allowed under his rule change.

"There is a world of difference of a Member of Parliament spending half a day doing some teaching in their school and people being employed full time on the school roll.

"I've done it myself. Teach First, which is a fantastic organisation that we supported when I was a minister, has a week in which politicians and others can go in and teach.

"I spent an hour teaching a year nine class in Holly Lodge school in my constituency, that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about schools taking on full time staff who are not qualified."

The government says that free schools are proving popular and new schools "encourage the ones which already exist to raise their game".

A Department for Education spokesman said: "Free schools are proving highly popular with families who expect better than the old 'take it or leave it' offer they used to get from the council."

Danny Alexander announces massive expansion of Troubled Families programme



Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny

Alexander announced in June a massive expansion of the Coalition Government's ground-breaking Troubled Families programme, investing an additional £200 million to start to extend intensive help to 400,000 high risk families to get to grips with their problems before they spiral out of control.

The Troubled Families programme works by assigning a dedicated worker to engage with a whole family on all of its problems, such as ensuring that the children attend school, appointments are met and appropriate

services are accessed. Crucially, all of the public services involved with members of a family are coordinated and the demand on them reduced.

A one-off average investment of £4,500 in work with each family is expected to reduce the annual £15,000 cost of dealing with their problems, by supporting families to access work, reducing anti-social behaviour, poor school attendance and criminality.

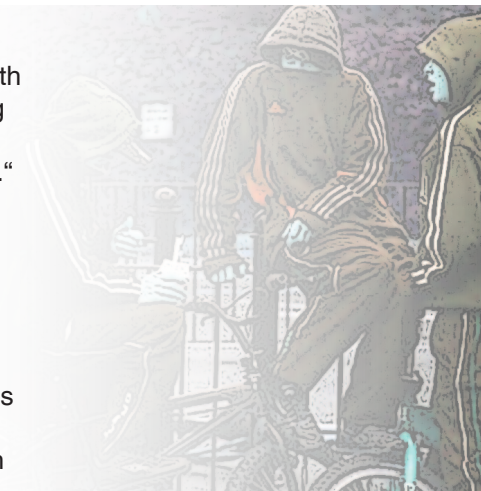
Commenting, Danny Alexander said: "Reforming how services are delivered is going to be a central part of this week's Spending Round. The Troubled Families programme is a radical example of how, by spending a bit more

in certain areas, we can save much more in others and by doing so create a stronger economy and a fairer society. Extending this intensive help to 400,000 more families will enable us to tackle problems such as truancy, anti-social behaviour and crime. The government is committing £200 million in funding in 2015/16 and for every £4,500 spent on a family, we can reduce the annual £15,000 cost of dealing with their problems by reducing the burden on the police, health and social services."

Head of the Troubled Families programme, Louise Casey said: "It is great news that the momentum we have built up on the Troubled Families programme can continue by extending the approach

to a wider group of families who, for example, are struggling with health problems or parenting, where their children are not in school or are at risk of being taken into care. This new programme will enable us to help earlier in families' lives to change them for the better."

The announcement was made on a visit to Wandsworth's multi-agency Family Recovery Project, which announced that it has turned around nearly a third of its troubled families, saving the taxpayer roughly £29,000 per troubled family per year.



Harriet Harman calls for Parliamentary inquiry into women's sport



Harriet Harman MP, Labour's Shadow Culture, Media and

Sport Secretary, will call for an inquiry into women's sport, looking at media coverage, sponsorship and prize money.

Speaking at a roundtable on women and sport to be held in Parliament in June, Harman will call on the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee to set up the inquiry.

Women's sport has been in the spotlight following the success of female athletes at the Olympics, but sportswomen are missing out. That has to change.

Even though 36% of GB medals won at the 2012 Olympics and 47% at the Paralympics came from women:

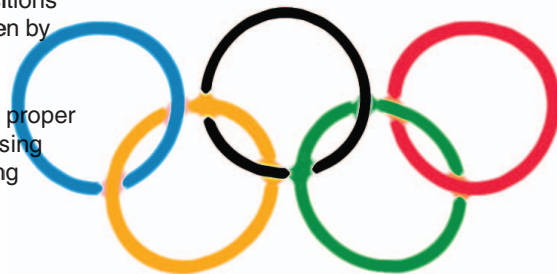
- Women's sport only receives 0.5% of total sports sponsorship in the UK
 - Only 4% of sports coverage in national and local newspapers is dedicated to women's sport, and
 - There is a major gap in prize money: Wigan Athletic, winners of the men's FA Cup final, won £1.8m in prize money – Arsenal, who won the women's FA Cup final, won £5000.
- Harriet Harman called for the inquiry as part of a five point plan for women's sport:
- Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee should launch an inquiry into women's sport, including media coverage, sponsorship and prize money
 - Men-only golf clubs should be banned, through changes to the Equality Act
 - Sports that receive public money should have targets for getting women and girls playing sport
 - There should be targets for sports governing bodies to have women on their boards – just one in five top positions on boards are taken by women
 - There should be a proper strategy for increasing participation among school-age girls.

Harriet Harman MP, Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said: "Women's sport is no longer a minority interest. We were all inspired by Team GB's female athletes and the excitement of Wimbledon is as much about the women as it is the men.

"Sportswomen train just as hard as men and compete just as seriously, yet their events get less media coverage, they get less prize money and the sponsorship deals are woeful.

"It's time the media, governing bodies, sponsors and policy makers worked together to tackle sexism in sport.

"Our female athletes do us proud and they deserve equality."



Foreign Secretary statement on Foreign Policy implications of an independent Scotland

The Foreign Secretary, William Hague, said: “The UK Government position is clear: Scotland benefits from being part of the UK, and the UK benefits from having Scotland within it. The UK firmly believes it is for people in Scotland to decide their own future, and we will play our part in delivering a legal, fair and decisive referendum in Scotland and keeping international partners informed.

“My response to the Committee’s report highlights the benefits Scotland gains from being part of the UK. In its negotiations, the UK has secured key victories – from fisheries reform to securing contracts for Scottish firms – on issues which have a positive impact on people and businesses in Scotland. It is hard to see how an independent Scotland would have more influence by itself.

“Scotland benefits from being part of a large, established EU Member State with considerable international influence, a far-reaching diplomatic and trade network – and, crucially, some of the most inclusive arrangements in Europe which allow the Scottish Government a significant role in decision-making.

“I am proud of the approach the UK is taking to the Scottish referendum. It is an opportunity to show to the world our collective and peaceful democracy in action.”

The Committee’s report contained two direct recommendations for the UK Government, which have been considered fully in this response, and reiterated what many others have been saying for some time – the

Scottish Government still need to set out clearly what the key elements of their foreign policy would be, how they intend to establish it and at what cost to the Scottish taxpayer.

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Moore, said: “Leaving the UK would involve significant and irreversible changes to the daily lives of people in Scotland. Our foreign reach, advantages from a highly-developed diplomatic network, consular assistance, and places at the world’s top tables would all have to be built from the ground up in a separate Scotland. That has far-reaching implications and there is no avoiding some of the difficult practical issues which come alongside independence.

“Scotland in the UK has access and influence

throughout the world, from soft power to the promotion of trade and the opening up of new markets for Scottish companies through the embassy network and UKTI. At the same time people throughout the UK are protected by the constant vigilance and work of our security services.

“There is no doubt being part of the UK provides an incredible platform from which Scotland can do more, go further and aim higher in the wider world. The real effects of walking away from this unique global advantage need to be fully explained to people in Scotland as they make their decisions about our country’s future.

“We know there is a lack of detail and answers from those who support independence on these and other important issues. People in Scotland need to know exactly what leaving the UK means – and part of that would be swapping our collective strength in the UK for an uncertain alternative as a separate country.”

The referendum will take place in Scotland on 18 September 2014.

Bee Disease Confirmed

A case of American Foulbrood (AFB), a disease affecting colonies of honeybees, has been found in an apiary near Turriff in the Aberdeenshire area.

The disease was confirmed in August following laboratory diagnosis by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA). Outbreaks of AFB have previously been reported and dealt with in this area over recent years.

The AFB infected hive has been destroyed as there is no permitted treatment for the disease in the UK. There are no risks to public health from AFB and no implications for the quality and safety of honey. The movement of bees and related equipment into or out of the affected apiary are under specific controls.

Beekeepers in the Turriff area are asked to be vigilant for signs of the disease particularly if they had recently been sharing an apiary. The bees affected had recently been foraging on oil seed rape in an apiary which was shared by several other beekeepers. All beekeepers are asked to maintain good husbandry practices and to notify any suspicion of disease to BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

In order to assist Scottish Government Bee Inspectors to control this and other diseases, beekeepers are urged to register on BeeBase, the national bee database. This will give them access to up-to-date information on the control of AFB and bee

related issues.

Beekeepers in the area of this outbreak who are not on BeeBase are requested to register at: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/> or send their contact details to: BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

American Foulbrood is a notifiable disease of honeybees which is caused by a spore-forming bacterium called *Paenibacillus larvae*. This bacterium forms spores when subjected to stress (such as lack of nutrients); it is these spores that actually cause and are the source of the disease. Spores enter the larva through feeding of contaminated food. The bacteria kill the bee larva by completely consuming the body tissues. The spores are highly resistant

to extremes of temperature, chemical attack and other adverse conditions that kill most bacteria and remain viable for many years. Indeed, their purpose is to allow the bacterium to survive harsh conditions, and once the hardship has passed, for example when nutrients become available again, the bacterium will germinate and reproduce. The cycle will repeat if hardship occurs again. This means that it is difficult to eliminate the spores from colonies. AFB kills off bee larva, is highly contagious and difficult to eradicate. Unlike European Foulbrood (EFB) hives with AFB cannot be treated and must be destroyed as there is no permitted treatment for the disease in the UK.



Councils should not be hoarding billions says Local Government Secretary

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles has highlighted the 'hypocrisy' of councils pleading poverty when they have trebled their cash reserves over the last 10 years.

New statistics published show that councils have increased their cash reserves by over 20% in real terms since 2010 to 2011. Reserves now stand at over £19 billion – an increase of £2.6 billion in the last year alone.

Mr Pickles called on local authorities to consider whether such substantial reserves are necessary at a time when they should be focusing on protecting frontline services for residents and making sensible investments for the longer term.

Councils account for a quarter of all public spending. In total councils are forecast to spend £102 billion in 2013 to 2014 – up 4% from their forecast the year before.

The figures also show that councils' in-house spending continued to rise by a further 2% despite repeated calls by ministers to reduce administration costs and overheads.

Local Government and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

There are no rules that specify minimum or maximum levels of reserves and people will be surprised that while councils are hoarding billions in their

piggy banks some are pleading poverty and raising Council Tax.

While it is sensible for local authorities to maintain a healthy cushion, such substantial reserves are completely unnecessary and should be tapped into to ensure councils can protect frontline services and keep Council Tax down for hardworking people.

Councils should also be making creative use of reserves to address short-term costs, such as restructuring or investing now to realise savings in the longer-term.



Original Designs for Cremated Remains Interment and Commemoration

welters® stainless steel tracery not only looks amazing but it is more than just a decorative feature for niche walls. The design allows for additional doves leaves and butterflies to be fitted as inscribed memorial items creating a unique commemorative and revenue generating feature. **welters®** Tree of Life reflective panels and sculpture is available both as a stand alone item or fountain water feature. The Portico of Peace entrance feature also facilitates inscribed commemorative attachments.

Continuing the stainless steel theme; the iconic design of the Majestic Memorial cremated remains Mausoleum for above ground interment is now also available in gleaming stainless steel, a pinnacle of the selection option.

Taskforce urges people to report waste crime as it continues to target illegal waste activities

The Environment Agency works with Police, Road Haulage Association, Association of British Insurers, Vehicle and Operator Service Agency and Crimestoppers to crack down on waste crime.

Environment Agency officers have been out in force setting up stop and searches and visiting waste sites to stop illegal waste activity that undercuts legitimate business and blights local communities.

Serious waste crime is big business. There are currently in excess of 800 illegal waste sites operating throughout England & Wales.

Illegal waste sites can cause serious pollution incidents, bad smells, chemical spills, blight the landscape, and cause misery for surrounding

communities. Sites that covertly hold hazardous waste and chemicals without safeguards are breaking the law and risk causing serious pollution incidents that damage rivers, habitats and pose a risk to human health.

The Environment Agency issued 139 formal cautions relating to waste crime in 2011-2012. Almost 300 successful prosecutions resulted in total fines in excess of £1.6 million – the highest fine being for £100,000.

The aim of the day of action, code name Operation Cyclone, is to disrupt the supply of waste to illegal waste sites, gather intelligence and encourage people to report waste crime either through our incident line: 0800 80 70 60 or anonymously through

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111. Advice will also be provided and guidance to ensure waste is handled correctly and to bring illegal waste sites into compliance.

The day of action comes as part of an ongoing blitz on criminal waste operations which began at the end of 2011, to identify and stop illegal waste sites.

Steve Townhill, Environment Agency Taskforce Manager, said: "Waste crime undermines legitimate business, can cause harm to environment and misery for local people.

"We will continue to work with our enforcement partners to combine our powers to disrupt illegal waste activity. We urge anyone with information about illegal waste activity to contact our

hotline 0800 80 70 60 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Rodger Holden from Crimestoppers said: "We have worked alongside the Environment Agency since 2011 and this relationship has been key to eliminating waste crime that can have a huge effect on people's lives.

"Through this partnership we have been able to engage with the agency and discover what issues are affecting our environment, while they have been able to call on our expertise to tackle these problems and our call to action, encouraging people to pass on information about waste crime, completely anonymously."

Mike Moore from the Road Haulage Association said:

"RHA members fully support the aims of the Taskforce in particular the assistance available to legitimate business in levelling the playing field against those who continue to flout the waste carrying and disposal laws and we will continue to support the Environment Agency in its efforts."



Reopen Closed Cemeteries, Dramatically Extend The Life Of Existing Cemeteries

welters® burial chamber and mausoleum interment systems are in demand nationally, providing affordable and sustainable solutions for cemeteries with diminishing earthen grave resources. A common application is on land unsuitable for earthen burial or over buried in areas where the Rights of Burial have not been granted. Chambers can be installed without disturbance of any remains and the area can be raised accordingly to create a premium interment facility. Burials can take place immediately in a safe and managed environment. Similarly, mausoleum installations can further extend burial provision with flexible designs to take advantage of previously unusable areas such as narrow or steep embankments or overgrown boundary edges.

welters® 24/7 interment support teams are available to ensure a professional service is maintained at all times.

Robust regulation in place to accelerate shale development, says Energy Minister

Energy Minister Michael Fallon says nothing now stopping oil and gas licensees from bringing on new drilling plans

Speaking at the first meeting of the new All Party Parliamentary Group for Unconventional Gas & Oil (APPG) in the House of Commons today, Energy Minister Michael Fallon said:

“The Government is creating the right framework to accelerate shale gas development in a responsible way.

“We announced fracking could resume with robust regulation last December and there is nothing now stopping licensees from bringing on new drilling plans.

“It is up to licensees to come forward with plans to explore the shale potential, engaging with local communities and gaining the necessary planning permissions and permits.”

The APPG for Unconventional Oil & Gas is a parliamentary discussion forum of MPs and Lords with associate members including representatives from across the industry and supply chain, trade bodies, consumer groups, academic organisations and NGOs.

Chaired by Dan Byles MP, the group will consider unconventional oil and gas exploration and development, and the potential wider environmental, economic

and other impacts.

Mr Fallon added:

“There are already 176 licences for onshore exploration and development, conventional and unconventional, a fifth of which are substantial.

We expect to launch a new round of licence applications next year and I am announcing that AMEC will carry out the necessary Strategic Environment Assessment for what will be the UK’s 14th onshore licensing round.

“Shale gas has great potential and we have the right regulation in place so the UK benefits as quickly as possible in terms of energy security, investment and jobs.

“But development must be done in partnership with communities. We are working hard with industry on a package of community benefits and to ensure that their concerns are properly met.”



Fracking is not the answer

INVESTMENT in clean, green renewables – NOT hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) – is the way forwards for energy policy, says The Green Party

The Coalition Government has said that Britain has potentially more shale gas than previously thought as it announced guidelines and financial incentives for the extraction of the reserves.

A report by the British Geological Survey (BGS) says that the Bowland Shale, covering 11 counties in the north of England, contains about 40tn cubic metres of gas. The BGS study is an assessment of ‘gas in place’ – recoverable resources are likely to be significantly lower.

A day after revealing the Comprehensive Spending Review, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said that fracking promised to be a “real boon

for our economy for many decades to come.”

The Green Party is opposed to fracking methods of extracting oil and gas from conventional and unconventional wells.

In response to the publication of the report, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas today asked the House of Commons for an urgent debate on fracking.

“Ministers should spend more time working out how to keep fossil fuels in the ground and less time squandering taxpayers money on tax breaks for shale gas that scientists say we simply cannot afford to burn if the government is to keep its commitment to limit global warming to below two degrees Celsius.”

Lucas’ opposition to fracking was echoed by Green Party Leader Natalie Bennett:

“Campaigners have understandably, and rightly, concentrated, on concerns about the local environmental impact of fracking – the multiple heavy vehicle movements, the consumption of water, the high risk of contamination of aquifers, the earthquakes – but it’s important to also recognise that the independent Committee on Climate Change has said that Britain might not be able to frack and meet its legally binding emissions targets.

“More, fracking as part of George Osborne’s ‘dash for gas’ threatens to lock Britain into a high-cost energy future.

“We know what the ‘fuel’ for wind farms and solar panels will be in the future – nothing. By contrast most experts expect the cost of gas to continue to rise, the only question is by how much.”

Only one well has been drilled and “fracked” in Bowland Shale (by Caudrilla Resources). The fracking was suspended after the exploration triggered two small earth tremors in the Blackpool area. The government has issued 176 licences for onshore oil and gas exploration.



Ofsted: Too many of England's poorest children continue to be let down by the education system

The Chief Inspector of Ofsted put forward in June a series of radical and far-reaching recommendations to make a lasting difference to the prospects of thousands of 'unseen children' from low income backgrounds who are being let down by the education system.

The recommendations aimed at closing the attainment gap between England's poorest children and those from better off backgrounds were contained in a lecture delivered by Sir Michael Wilshaw in central London.

The speech at Church House in Westminster and the accompanying

report, entitled Unseen children, marked 20 years since Ofsted first published a report into the achievements of the poorest children in the education system and 10 years since a follow-up study in 2003.



Cultural engagement in England on the increase

Latest DCMS (Department for Culture, Media & Sport) Taking Part Survey figures published for 2012/13, covering adults in England.

There has been an increase in the proportion of people who had visited a museum or gallery in the last year by adults in England according to the latest figures from the Taking Part Survey.

Compared to 2005/06 when the survey began, the proportion of people who had visited a museum or gallery in the last year has significantly increased from 42% to 53% in 2012/13 and represents a general upward trend since 2008/09.

Taking Part, a survey conducted by DCMS, Arts Council England, English Heritage and Sport England on engagement in heritage, the arts, libraries, archives and museums and galleries, has released its figures covering April 2012 to March 2013 which shows participation and attendance rates have been at their highest level since the Taking Part survey began in 2005/06.

There has also been an increase in the proportion of visits to museums and galleries and heritage sites by adults from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups.

Compared to 2005/06 when the survey began, the proportion of BME visits to museums and galleries increased from 35% to 45% in 2012/13. The proportion of BME visits to heritage sites increased from 51% in 2005/06 to 57% in 2012/13.

Eric Pickles hails end of heavy handed bin fines

Deregulation Bill protects householders from unnecessary bin penalties.

New laws will ensure householders are no longer be penalised by their council if they accidentally put their rubbish out early or put the wrong item in the wrong bin, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said today (1 July 2013).

A new legal test will be introduced - of public nuisance or 'harm to local amenity' - to ensure that powers are only used against the very small minority of people who allow rubbish to pile up, or those who fly-tip or dump their rubbish. It will stop the practice of fines being issued for breaches of confusing, arbitrary and

unfair town hall bin rules, such as not closing a bin lid, putting a rubbish bin out at the wrong time, or putting a yoghurt pot into the wrong bin.

Mr Pickles welcomed the Deregulation Bill unveiled today that will make provision to scrap heavy-handed fines for people who make mistakes when putting out their bins would be a welcome and long awaited relief for law-abiding householders.

Household waste recycling and collection services are the most important services residents receive for their council tax, according to recent survey.

The measure builds on the government's steps already taken to scrap bin taxes,

and to support weekly rubbish collections and end the Whitehall policy of forcing councils to deliver fortnightly collections.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles: "For too long barmy bin rules have allowed local authorities to slap fines on law-abiding people who make innocent mistakes.

"Putting out your rubbish should be a simple process and it is ludicrous that we have a system where a milk carton in the wrong bin, or a wheelie bin a few inches out of place can lead to people facing bigger fines than shoplifters.

"We're bringing common sense back and reining in the town hall bin bullies."

Right that Assad be judged by actions more than simply by words – Douglas Alexander

Douglas Alexander MP, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, responding to President al-Assad's assurances that Syria's chemical weapons will be placed under international control, said:

"No one should be in any doubt as to the murderous nature of the Assad regime and so it is right that Assad be judged by his actions more than simply by his words.

"The challenge confronting Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Lavrov today in Geneva is to agree a means to identify, verify, secure and ultimately remove from Assad's possession those weapons – with the final goal of destroying them altogether.

"Their task over the coming days is to prove that a goal that is desirable, is also doable."

Industry and government need to work together to deliver infrastructure, says Deighton

In a speech to the annual Government Construction Summit, Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, Lord Deighton called for government, industry and innovators to work together to ensure the UK is seen as the best place to invest, and to deliver much-needed infrastructure.

Deighton was speaking five days after the government launched 'Investing in Britain's Future' which set out £100 billion of infrastructure spending over the next parliament.

He assured industry representatives that infrastructure is a top priority for the government.

"As we saw at the Spending Round, infrastructure

is right at the top of the government's priorities. Investing in major projects creates jobs, boosts businesses and has a big impact on growth on a local and national scale."

"In the long term, we want Britain to have the best roads, rail, airports, flood defences, energy and digital network so that we can achieve our potential as a country and win the global race."

Deighton acknowledged that infrastructure delivery can take time, but that the government is committed to long-term investment.

"...we're driving forward progress and working with the private sector and research experts to plan

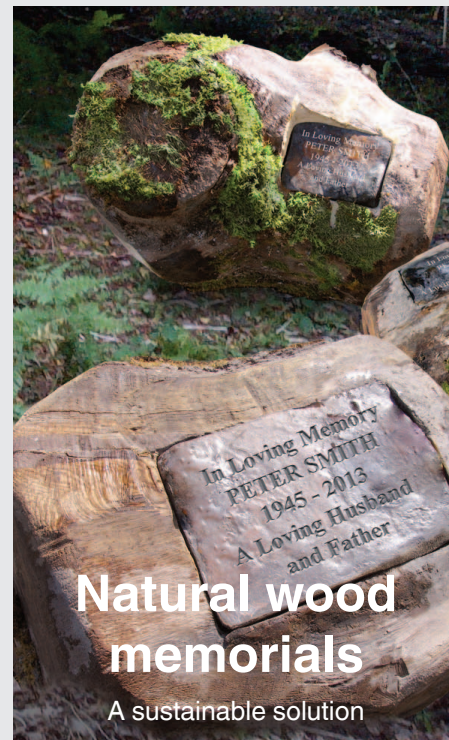
and build for the future."

The Government Construction Summit is an important annual event for the construction industry, providing discussion between the industry and government on issues facing the sector.

This year's summit saw the launch of the government's Industrial Strategy for Construction.

Other speakers at the summit included Michael Fallon, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, Chloe Smith, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform and the government's Chief Construction Adviser, Peter Hansford.

welters[®]
ORGANISATION
WORLDWIDE
Design and Innovation



CalMac's £285m contract extended without consultation



Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Alex Johnstone MSP

The SNP has been accused of stifling Scotland's main ferry routes after it waved through a £285 million contract without opening it for bids.

It has been confirmed that CalMac's three-year deal will begin next month after the Scottish Government extended it without inviting other competitors, and

without even discussing it with CalMac.

The Scottish Conservatives have criticised the SNP's conduct over the contract award, particularly given it knew for several years the deal was due to expire this month.

But instead of opening the popular and vital routes out to other companies to bid for, CalMac's deal was simply extended, denying value for the taxpayer and flexibility in the market.

The contract for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services, which will now run until 2016, has been published online and will take effect at the beginning of next month.

It confirms that the deal is

worth £285 million, and that no prior publication of a contract notice was made.

The Scottish Conservatives want the routes to be partially "unbundled", allowing for smaller firms to stake their claim for operating some services.

The contract was extended even though the notice states ministers "remain committed to ensuring that Scotland's subsidised ferry service contracts are awarded following fair, open and transparent competition".

Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Alex Johnstone MSP said:

"The Scottish Government has made a real mess of this project, and it's come at

the expense of small businesses and, potentially, the quality of the service.

"By simply extending this deal, the SNP has failed in its duty to allow the tendering process to take place.

"We have known for years that this deal was due to expire, but the fact is the Scottish Government does not want to make any tough decisions ahead of September 2014.

"Ferries have to be cost-effective for both the taxpayer and the fare-payer, and simply extending a contract without thought risks both of these.

"We have always pushed the Scottish Government to deliver contracts of a size which attracts a range of bidders, including Scotland's outstanding small, independent ferry companies.

"They have a proven record of success, but are being squeezed out of this process by an unimaginative Scottish Government that just wants an easy ride for the next 12 months."

Sustainability and Innovation is Key to High Quality Manufacturing and Development

welters® have long been involved in sustainable working practices. The company has roots in farming and land management where the practice of reuse and recycle is as natural as nature herself.

The process of changing previously used materials into something new and reusable does not mean quality is sacrificed either.

One of the main activities of **welters®** is the

manufacture of cast stone products, primarily for the bereavement industry. Products range from decorative pieces such as pediments and memorials to large mausoleum cells and burial chambers.

The quality of the cast stone for these products has to be high, aesthetically for the decorative pieces and structurally for burial chambers and mausoleum cells where interments take place.

The key to maintaining this standard is ensuring the cast stone is made from high quality materials and importantly from an environmental perspective this material must come from sustainable sources.

The material used for **welters®** cast stone is not only from a sustainable source it is also of a higher grade than the standard purchased equivalent.

Similarly **welters®** are developing the use of windfall timbers from sustainable forests to create a range of state of the art natural wood memorials and interment products for cremated remains. Their latest innovation is the Woodland Orb made from windfall Oak. The timber is hollowed out to accept cremated remains caskets and is sealed with a bio-resin bonded inscribed tablet. This is further being developed to include natural wood sarcophagi and burial chamber provision for eco cemeteries and woodland burial grounds.

welters® are continually striving to utilise existing resources in new and innovative ways without compromising on quality.



Written ministerial statement outlines the government's decision to ban khat

This written ministerial statement was delivered in the House of Commons by Theresa May and in the House of Lords by Lord Taylor of Holbeach.



Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May):

The government will control khat under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a Class C drug.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs undertook a thorough and comprehensive scientific review which focused on the medical and social harms of khat consumption. The ACMD report gives

considerable insight into the complexity of this matter and, based on the available evidence, it came to a reasonable conclusion in its recommendation to government. Although it recommended that khat should not be controlled, the ACMD acknowledges that there is an absence of robust evidence in a number of areas and that there are broader factors for the government to consider when making its decision. The decision to bring khat under control is finely balanced and takes into account the expert scientific advice and these broader concerns.

The whole of northern Europe – most recently the Netherlands – and the majority of other EU member states have controlled khat,

as well as most of the G8 countries, including Canada and the USA. In all these cases khat's exportation, importation, supply and its possession or use has been banned. Failure to take decisive action and change the UK's legislative position on khat would place the UK at a serious risk of becoming a single, regional hub for the illegal onward trafficking of khat to these countries. Seizures of khat transiting the UK en route to the Netherlands have already been increasing in size and frequency since the Dutch ban earlier this year. The ACMD report recognised the likelihood that some khat is being re-exported to countries where it is illegal. The ACMD could not determine the scale of this activity based on the available evidence and

acknowledged that this concern forms part of government consideration of the matter.

Khat continues to feature prominently amongst the health and social harms, such as low attainment and family breakdown, cited by affected communities and the police and local authorities working with them. The ACMD acknowledged that there was insufficient evidence to enable the ACMD to advise if khat use was a cause or a symptom of social harms. The government is concerned that we risk underestimating the actual harms of khat in our communities owing to the limitations of the evidence base available to the ACMD. To ensure a proportionate and robust policing response, the government will introduce an escalation framework for the possession of khat for personal use, similar to that in place for cannabis.

The government will ban khat so that we can protect vulnerable members of our communities and send a clear message to our international partners and khat smugglers that the UK is serious about stopping the illegal trafficking of khat.

Radical reform of Gift Aid in response to changing giving habits

The government has outlined proposals for one of the biggest reforms of Gift Aid rules in recent years. These reforms will make it easier for charities to claim tax relief on donations made online or by text message, ensuring that more money goes to good causes.

Gift Aid is one of the best-known tax reliefs available to charities, allowing them to reclaim tax on any donation paid by an eligible donor. Last year over £1 billion was paid to charities through Gift Aid.

The government wants charities to be able to claim Gift Aid on as many eligible donations as possible, and has already made a number of changes to the rules that represent a radical package designed to make claiming easier. For example

introducing a new IT system that allows charities to claim Gift Aid online, and simplifying rules for charity shops who claim Gift Aid on donations from the sale of goods.

This government has also introduced the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme to enable charities to claim Gift Aid style payments on donations given via collecting tins and buckets. This will be worth over £100 million a year to charities when the scheme gets up and running.

But further reform is necessary to modernise the system. The way people give is changing, and new technology is allowing people to make donations in ways that could not have been imagined ten years ago.

Sajid Javid, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "Britain is a generous country and the amount of giving is something we should be deeply proud of, especially in these challenging times. The government has already introduced radical changes to encourage donations, but we can do more. I am determined to build a Gift Aid system fit for the 21st century so that more money goes to charitable causes. Quite simply, I want to see Gift Aid claimed on as many donations as possible. I look forward to hearing ideas from the charitable sector so that we can look towards the future of Gift Aid."

The consultation explains that, because Gift Aid is a tax relief, it will always involve a

certain amount of information passing between the donor, the charity and HMRC, through what is known as the Gift Aid declaration.

The government is suggesting ways in which this process can be adapted for spontaneous digital giving, for example by shortening the declaration, or by allowing the organisations that process digital donations to collect and pass on the Gift Aid or the declarations to charities.

The consultation document also asks for views on other significant changes that could be made to Gift Aid, for example the introduction of a universal Gift Aid declaration database that would mean that donors could complete a single declaration to cover all their donations to charity.

The aim of the reform is to increase take-up of Gift Aid on digital donations so that more money ultimately goes to good causes. The government is asking charities, organisations that process digital donations and donors for their views on the proposed changes to the system between now and 20 September 2013.

Improved environment guidance for businesses

UK businesses and the public are being asked to send ideas on how environmental rules and regulations can be made more straightforward.

Businesses could save more than £1 billion over 10 years if environmental guidance were easier to find and follow, Environment Secretary Owen Paterson said today.

Starting in June, UK businesses and the public are being asked to send ideas on how volumes of environmental rules and regulations can be drawn together and made easier to find. This will make it easier and cheaper for businesses to comply with regulations.

Secretary of State for

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Owen Paterson, said: "This is not about reducing the quality of environmental regulations. The same protection levels will stay. We want to make it easier for businesses to find and follow the law with a single version of straightforward guidance for each topic. Right now businesses are wading through too much complex information. We should also be smart about the information we ask from businesses and how we collect it."

"Taking up too much of businesses' time can be an unseen barrier to growth. With clearer, simpler guidance we can save a great deal of time and money for businesses to put to better use. As we

implement these reforms we will be asking you to tell us how we can make it easier for businesses to do their part in improving the environment."

Regulation has an important role to play in improving the environment and more user-friendly guidance is needed to ensure the requirements of these regulations can be met easily.

An outcome of the Red Tape Challenge, these reforms could reduce the time spent by businesses by 80%, and could save the UK economy more than £1 billion over the next 10 years.

Environment, Energy and Water Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, Allen Creedy said:

"Small businesses want

to play their part in the move to a greener economy but they are often disproportionately affected by complicated environmental regulation. That is why the Federation of Small Businesses supports Defra's Smarter Regulation review."

"Initiatives like this can go a long way to easing the administrative cost of and the time it takes to comply with regulation. It can help to create a win-win situation ensuring small firms respect the environment while generating much needed growth for the economy. We would look forward to working with Defra on the implementation of the Review."

To help us make significant progress on these reforms over the next year we'll be asking people to get online and give us their views on how guidance and information requirements can be made more straightforward across a number of areas including waste, wildlife protection, environmental permits and land management. We will also publish draft pieces of guidance and ask for comments on how they can be improved.

Moore welcomes Common Agricultural Policy agreement

The Secretary of State for Scotland Michael Moore has welcomed news of the European Parliament's approval of the CAP deal.

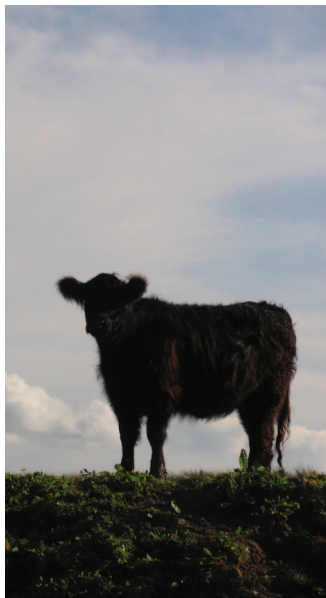
Mr Moore said: "This is the culmination of long, difficult negotiations. The UK Government has been fighting hard to protect the interests of producers, consumers and taxpayers across the UK. The UK Government has secured significant gains for Scotland on simplification, greening and the challenging transition from historic and area-based payments. Provision to use the national reserve to encourage new entrant farmers is a big win for Scotland.

"Significant progress

on regionalisation of the CAP respects UK devolution. The UK has one of the most inclusive arrangements in the EU for devolved administrations to contribute to decision-making. This formal recognition by the EU hardwires our ability to enable a strong, local Scottish voice for agriculture, with a clear, unified UK voice exerting shared clout at the top table in Europe as the third largest Member State. This flexibility and influence of the UK gives farmers, consumers and taxpayers in Scotland the best of both worlds.

"I am pleased that the Scottish Agriculture Secretary Richard Lochhead has welcomed the deal. I would like to

pay tribute to the positive, inclusive working between DEFRA, the Scottish Government, the NFUS and the wider Scottish farming community who have put enormous effort into securing significant gains for Scotland.

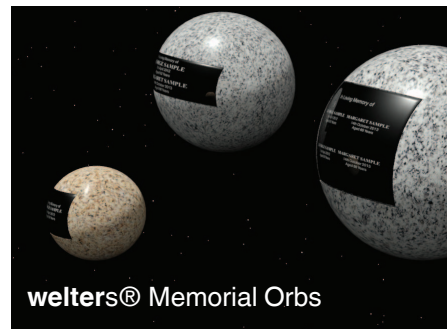


Making a fast buck from children's education is wrong and will damage standards – Stephen Twigg



Stephen Twigg MP, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, commenting on reports about profit making schools, said: "Making a fast

buck from children's education is wrong and will damage standards. Michael Gove shouldn't experiment in this way. In Sweden, we've seen standards in literacy and numeracy fall and schools collapse since profit making was introduced."





Taking inspiration from the natural world

Reports reveal treasures unearthed by the public

Finds in 2011 up by eight per cent

Iron Age objects and hoards of coins are among the archaeological discoveries which are reported by members of the public to a DCMS-funded scheme to record these finds.

The annual Portable Antiquities report and Treasure report, published today, show that 97,509 finds were recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in 2011 - eight per cent more than in 2010.

"It never ceases to amaze me that such incredibly important objects have survived in the ground for many hundreds of years, waiting to be found by

everyday people," Culture Minister Ed Vaizey said.

"Not only are these objects extremely exciting discoveries, but once reported as Treasure or recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme they have great potential to rewrite the history of this country, and enrich local and national museums."

In July 2012 the ITV show Britain's Secret Treasures highlighted some of the finds recorded through the PAS.

"The ITV series shows just how much these finds have captured the public's imagination and changed our understanding of the past, said Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum. "It is a scheme

which is envied the world over. I am very grateful to the Department for Culture Media and Sport for continuing to support the scheme."

New discoveries

Exciting recent finds highlighted at the reports launch include:

- An extremely rare late Iron Age helmet from near Canterbury, Kent, found by a metal detectorist in October 2012, which had been used as a vessel to hold a human cremation.
- The second largest hoard of Roman gold coins ever found in Britain (pictured), picked up by a metal detector on a site near St Albans, Hertfordshire.
- An important hoard

of Viking Age gold and silver metalwork found in North Yorkshire in May 2012 which included silver collars and neck-rings, a silver brooch and a sword pommel inlaid with gold foil plaques.

- A copper-alloy mount in the form of a boar associated with Richard III, which was found on the Thames foreshore.



More community energy projects to get support under Feed-in Tariffs

Aspiring communities across the nation will be able to receive Feed-in Tariff payments for the clean green energy generated by larger community energy projects, under new plans set out today.

Aspiring communities across the nation will be able to receive Feed-in Tariff (FITs) payments for the clean green energy generated by larger community energy projects, under new plans set out by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in June. Projects such as solar PV on school roofs or panels on libraries, community owned wind turbines and hydro power from local streams could all benefit under the proposed new rules.

The FITs scheme pays householders, businesses and communities for the electricity generated by a range of renewable energy technologies including solar PV, wind, hydro projects and anaerobic digestion. There is also money on offer for excess power exported back to the grid.

Support for community renewable projects over 5MW is currently available under the Renewables Obligation (RO). In response to feedback from community groups on the type of financial incentive that works best for them, DECC is planning to increase the threshold for community projects under FITs to enable larger projects to benefit.

Energy and Climate Change Minister Greg Barker said: "The Coalition is determined to drive a step change in the deployment of community energy.

"We want to help consumers, businesses and communities generate more of their own clean, green electricity locally, becoming less reliant on centralised power generation.

"The expansion of our reformed Feed-in Tariff will encourage even more communities to get on board."

The Government has already supported hundreds of community energy projects up and down the country and last week opened a £15million

Renewable Community Energy Fund to applications, to help with the cost of feasibility studies and seeking planning permission.

DECC is also keen to explore what needs to be done to kick start even more projects across the UK, with a call for evidence currently underway and the UK's first community energy strategy to be launched in the Autumn.

The proposed changes to the FITs rules will be made as part of the Energy Bill process. Once this Bill comes into force, the Government will consult on what this will mean in practice for community schemes.

Prime Minister: apprenticeships are central to rebuilding economy

David Cameron: “I want it to be the new norm for young people to either go to university or into an apprenticeship.”

To mark the start of National Apprenticeship Week which took place in March, Prime Minister David Cameron met with young apprentices at Mercedes-Benz in Milton Keynes, where he set out a vision for it to become the new norm for young people to either go to university or start an apprenticeship.

The Prime Minister will challenge employers, educators, and the government on how we can reach this aspiration and expand apprenticeship opportunities for young people, so that those who aspire to get ahead and

want to take one up can. This is similar to what happens in Germany where the vast majority of school leavers go to university or into an apprenticeship

It comes on the day that the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) forecast that apprenticeship completions over the next decade could contribute up to £3.4 billion a year to the economy through productivity gains by 2022. And follows the announcement from Barclays that as well as recruiting thousands of their own apprentices, they will work to promote apprenticeships to their business customers so that they create a further 10,000 new apprenticeships.

The government is

committed to ensuring more people can access high quality apprenticeships - and is already investing record amounts with up to £1.5bn this year alone.

To strengthen the apprenticeship programme the government will this week formally respond to the Richard Review. The review looks to improve the quality of apprenticeships and raise standards, and give employers much more direct control over the design and delivery of apprenticeships, which will be a key step towards achieving the vision set out by the Prime Minister.

Mr Cameron said: “Apprenticeships are at the heart of our mission to rebuild the economy, giving young people the chance

to learn a trade, to build their careers, and create a truly world-class, high-skilled workforce that can compete and thrive in the fierce global race we are in.

“There are record numbers of people taking up an apprenticeship, with a million starting one in the last few years. And as we take forward the Richard Review, our drive to reform and strengthen apprenticeships, raising standards and making them more rigorous and responsive to the needs of employers - means that an apprenticeship is increasingly seen as a first choice career move.

“But we need to challenge ourselves to go even further, that is why I want it to be the new norm for young people to either go to university or into an apprenticeship. We need to look at how we can expand apprenticeship opportunities so that they are available to all young people who are ready and eager to take them up, and aspire to get ahead in life.”



welters® Support Services

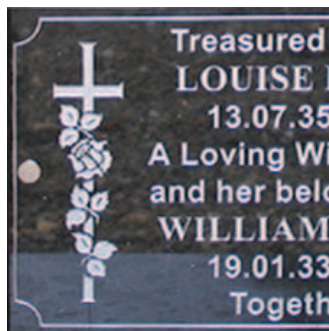
welters® decorative stone housings and architectural components are manufactured using natural Cumbrian limestone.

Some clients wish this stonework to weather in the most natural way possible and other clients prefer to keep the stonework clean and reduce the rate of weathering.

For those clients wishing to commission a higher level of maintenance **welters®** offer a cleaning and stone sealing service.

welters® also offer a comprehensive tablet supply and engraving service for all their products ranging from small niche wall inscriptions to large cover plate designs.

This service includes bespoke provisions such as granite signs and plaques.



More than 100 free schools applications approved

Michael Gove gives green light to 102 more free schools that will create more than 50,000 extra school places when full.

Education Secretary Michael Gove approved 102 new free school applications to open in 2014 and beyond, delivering around 50,000 new school places.

There are already 81 open free schools, with a further 109 aiming to open in September and beyond. In total, all currently approved free schools would deliver 130,000 new school places when full.

Free schools are state-funded schools independent of local authority control. They

are run by teachers - not local or central government bureaucrats. They have the freedom to decide the length of the school day and term, the curriculum, and how they reward their teachers and spend their money.

Many of the free schools approved today will be based in areas of deprivation, or where there is a shortage of school places, like the schools open or approved before them:

- 72% of all free school approvals and 91% of primary approvals will go towards meeting basic need. Ninety per cent of mainstream schools (excluding 14 to 19 schools) are in areas of basic need or

deprivation

- More than half (64%) of the mainstream schools are expected to be located in the 50% most deprived communities in the country. 44% of the mainstream schools announced today are expected to be located in the 30% most deprived communities in the country.

Sustainable Interment Solutions for New and Used Burial Land

Affordable Innovation

welters® have this year already completed more, larger and increasingly diverse Cemetery Village® schemes, and launched a number of private and new build crematoria service partnership programmes

schemes which facilitate fresh and original innovation through investment that delivers the inspiring and affordable solutions the industry demands and deserves.

Work continues apace in design and build, cemetery reuse, extensions, vaults, chambers and mausolea together with memorial manufacture and installation. Funding partnerships and interment support services are in increasing demand as are their cemetery acquisition programmes.

welters® specialist “sustainable” manufacturing programmes and environmental policies remain a core value to their business model.



7 interments – above and below ground sarcophagi burial chamber scheme

F.D. Welters Ltd a family name with a bright future

High Wycombe has a rich history on furniture making which began back in the 19th Century with the production of a wide array of designs and styles for Windsor chairs, making it the chair making capital of the world at the time.

In the 1800's the number of workshops in High Wycombe grew rapidly and by the latter half of the century the output of chairs manufactured is estimated at nearly 5000 per day making High Wycombe the main producer of chairs in the country.

Over the next hundred years, in addition to chairs, the industry evolved to include furniture manufacture, becoming the second largest furniture making town in the country.

After the First World War furniture production rose dramatically with the use of

newly developed mechanical manufacturing processes and again, after the Second World War new innovations and materials were used to enable mass production of furniture at very low cost.

F.D. Welters Ltd first moved into High Wycombe in 1939 producing cabinet and upholstery work. The company soon established itself at the centre of the furniture manufacturing community, playing a part in the formation of the British Furniture Manufacturers' Federated Association and were also heavily involved with the Furniture Makers Guild. Furniture production and innovation continued into the 1980's with Keith Welters pioneering the use of synthetics and multi-material development and later formed Welters Organisation Worldwide to develop and

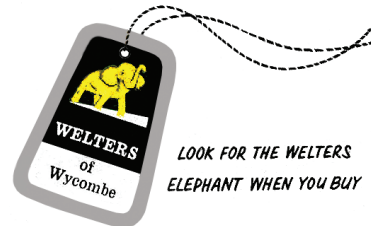
manufacture innovative products and services for the bereavement industry.

Although large scale furniture production has ceased at the company there are many fine examples of high quality F.D. Welters Ltd furniture still in circulation today and much coveted by collectors and style conscious consumers alike.

The continuing popularity of the furniture has been the inspiration for Keith Welters, a third generation City of London Freeman and Liveryman to reintroduce the original company name and to come full circle, linking the heritage of the past to the innovations of the present.

Keith said "We have put F.D. Welters Ltd back as the foundation upon which Welters Organisation Worldwide will operate as a trade name for part of our existing activities. The F.D. Welters Ltd legacy will be reintroduced and we want to build upon our furniture making roots in an exciting and creative new way going forward."

F.D. Welters Ltd Logo and Slogan



F.D. Welters classic sideboard

