



Art of Manufacturing

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Contents

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ORGANISATION
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£21 million Lottery boost to help preserve nine amazing UK landscapes

2 The Art of Manufacturing 18

Heavens to Betsy it's Arkansas, West Sussex!

3 White Paper claims UK students would still be charged tuition fees 23

Report reveals huge differences in what councils charge for services

4 New plans to ensure healthy seas and a vibrant fishing industry 24

Caroline Lucas – energy market review should address Big Six stranglehold

5 Government to cap payday loan costs 25

Group founded to boost London's growing Islamic finance market

6 Help for new home buyers will boost house building across Wales 26

Flanders soil arrives in Britain

7 UK Rare Diseases Strategy launched 27

Badger Vaccination Grant application window extended

8 Green Party: Gassing of badgers is 'inhuman' and must not get green light 28

Danny Alexander announces massive expansion of Troubled Families programme

9 Lower energy bills or frozen bills? 29

Keeping children safe online after Christmas tablet buying boom

10 The art and the craft 30

Osborne should note the Bank's fears about the housing market

11 War on Want really are cretins aren't they? 31

Greens welcome 'urgently needed' Domestic Violence Protection Scheme

12 Moore welcomes Common Agricultural Policy agreement 32

Flu vaccination uptake strong, but much more to do

13 Action on affordable water bills 34

The Conservatives' Plan to control immigration from the EU - and fix Labour's failures

14 Obesity can lead to harmful sleep disorder 35

Life-changing prosthetics technology

15 Passengers to benefit from high-speed mobile broadband on trains 36

Sustainable Interment Solutions for New and Used Burial Land

16 Emperor's New Green Clothes for Ed Milibands Transport Team 38

UK's largest coastal habitat flood scheme set to open in Sussex

17

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Ancient Egyptian manufacturers

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£21 million Lottery boost to help preserve nine amazing UK landscapes

This investment will ensure a boost for rural areas and provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The landscapes are:

- Coigach and Assynt, a beautiful and remote part of North West Scotland;
- The New Forest and its extensive ancient woodland and heathland;
- Humberhead Levels spanning Yorkshire and Lincolnshire;
- Ingleborough Dales, a limestone landscape in the Craven district of the Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- North York Moors, home of the pioneering ironstone industry and the early development of railways;

- Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland, the largest fresh water lake in the British Isles;
- Rusland Valley and Fells, in the South Lake District National Park;
- Derwent Valley, a coalfield area in North East England left behind by deindustrialisation; and
- East Wight, the eastern tip of the Isle of Wight and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The HLF's Landscape Partnership programme is the most significant grant scheme available for landscape-scale projects. To date, over £160m has been invested in 91 different areas across the UK.

Welcoming the announcement, Lottery Minister Helen Grant said:

“The UK’s amazing countryside is a constant joy for people living locally and a delight for tourists from all over the world. But it is also under ever-increasing pressure. So helping to conserve our finest landscapes for future generations to enjoy is a great use for National Lottery money.”



Coigach and Assynt, a beautiful and remote part of North West Scotland

Treasure finds at all-time high

New headline figures, published today, show that last year (2012) saw 998 finds of treasure reported in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the highest number since statistics were first published 5 years ago.

A detailed break-down of the equivalent figures for 2011, also published today, reveals that in that year a massive 92 per cent of all treasure finds were by people with metal detectors.

Welcoming the figures, Heritage Minister Ed Vaizey said:

There’s something essentially mysterious and exciting about buried treasure, and I’m delighted that each year reveals still more finds. These items help us get a fuller picture of how life was lived centuries ago, and add enormously to our rich and varied cultural heritage. I also salute all the responsible metal detectorists – true heritage heroes – whose patience and unceasing curiosity do so much to bring this treasure to light.

Heavens to Betsy it's Arkansas, West Sussex!

Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Sociolinguistics British Library writes:

What does a West Sussex baking enthusiast have in common with a teacher from Arkansas? Well, in the space of two days I heard both speakers utter the extraordinary phrase *Heavens to Betsy*. Fans of The Great British Bake Off will have enjoyed the return to the class of 2012 for their own reasons, but the highlight for me occurred during the review of last season's biscuit challenge, when a rather flustered Cathryn was driven to cry:

Heavens to Betsy what am I doing?

Only the previous day while auditing the British Library's *VoiceBank* I'd come across

the following recording made by a contributor from Arkansas:

"my favourite phrase is Heavens to Betsy and I use that when I am frustrated or if I'm surprised by something so for example if a student has not done his homework I would say 'Heavens to Betsy my goodness child why didn't you do what I ask you to do'" (BL Shelfmark C1442/00881)

What a splendid phrase. *The Partridge New Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* confirms a definition very much along the lines of our teacher from Arkansas and suggests it originated in the USA in the 1940s. The *Oxford English Dictionary* cites evidence from even

earlier (1857), but states it is of 'unknown' etymology, although Michael Quinion provides some interesting suggestions about its distribution on his World Wide Words website.

Etymology aside, the expression is clearly alive and well in West Sussex and Arkansas and one of a number of words and phrases contributed to the *WordBank* by visitors to the Library's *Evolving English* exhibition in 2010/11. Visitors were encouraged to submit words they felt were special in their variety of English and we've now catalogued over 2,000 of the 15,000 contributions, which offer some fascinating insights into 21st century dialect, slang and idiolectal usage. A selection of recordings feature in this year's Sound Edit, a competition in which young filmmakers are invited to create a short

film inspired by the *VoiceBank* with the winning entry to be screened at the Library's 2014 Spring Festival. Heavens to Betsy I can't wait!

The *Voicebank* can be listened to on the British Library website:

www.bl.uk/evolvingenglish/mapabout.html



Report reveals huge differences in what councils charge for services



Cameron Buchanan MSP

The amount of money councils charge for a variety of services across Scotland differs drastically, a report has found.

In a report published tomorrow, Audit Scotland found that the cost charged to the public for services like gym membership, social care and pest control vary greatly.

In some local authority

areas extra music tuition for school pupils is free, while in others it costs as much as £340.

Pest control for residents in some local authority areas costs nothing, while elsewhere it can cost £102 per visit.

The report, 'Charging for services: are you getting it right?', also revealed disparity in charging for home care, special waste uplift and street trader licences.

Audit Scotland said the public found these discrepancies "unfair" and "confusing", and pointed out councils raise around £1.3 billion a year from service charging.

But rather than use charges

purely as a means of income generation, the organisation said local authorities could use them to change behaviour, such as encouraging healthy living by reducing gym membership charges.

It added that councils should have clear policies in place relating to how much it charges and for what.

Scottish Conservative local government spokesman Cameron Buchanan MSP said:

"This is a welcome report, and one which raises very legitimate concerns.

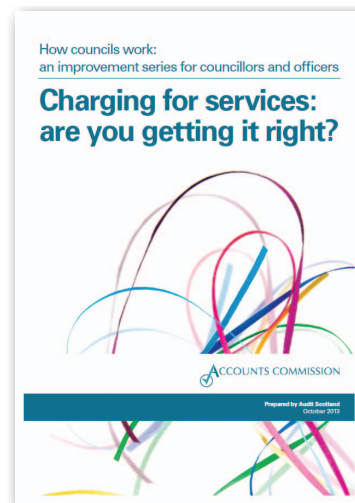
"It's completely wrong that people in one area have to pay through the nose for one service, yet a few miles down the road this could be

provided for free.

"I hope this study leads to a change in approach from local authorities so we can see some equality across the country.

"I appreciate that in some cases there may be certain local pressures that result in a disparity, but when this happens it has to be clearly explained to service users."

The report 'Charging for Services: are you getting it right?' is available for download www.audit-scotland.gov.uk



Caroline Lucas – energy market review should address Big Six stranglehold

COMMENTING on the annual energy statement, Caroline Lucas, MP for Brighton Pavilion, accused the Government of not being serious about breaking the stranglehold of the Big Six, and called for serious investment in energy efficiency to cut bills and address climate change.

The Green MP said:

“Being told to switch isn’t much use when the odds are totally rigged in favour of a handful of big companies.

“If the Government were serious about breaking the stranglehold of the Big Six, it would be supporting locally owned energy projects. It’s quite shocking that the Energy Secretary’s announcement

contained no mention of community energy. Support for community and co-operatively owned renewable schemes, where people benefit from generating their own power, is pathetically poor compared to the lavish subsidy the nuclear industry has just received.

“We need serious investment in energy efficiency, with Government action to ensure that every home is properly insulated. Making our housing stock much more energy efficient would help tackle climate change, cut bills, bring nine out of ten homes out of fuel poverty, and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

“And we need to address our dependence on gas,

which is the underlying reason people are seeing higher bills. Until we move away from fossil fuels towards a low-carbon future, no amount of tinkering around the edges of our flawed market will help consumers.

“Addressing the enormous risks that climate change presents to people in the UK and elsewhere means keeping the vast majority of existing fossil fuels in the ground. Yet ministers continue to listen to fossil fuel lobbyists rather than climate scientists.”

Lucas also criticised the close links between Government and the Big Six energy companies:

“It might be easier to take the Energy Secretary’s

outrage seriously if dozens of employees from the Big Six were not working inside his department, often paid for by taxpayers. He should be taking action to close the revolving door – which was wedged open under the previous Government too – between Whitehall and the vested interests of the big energy companies.”



Group founded to boost London's growing Islamic finance market



The government has announced the latest part of its plan to make Britain one of the world's leading Islamic finance centres.

Building on the Prime Minister's announcement that Britain would become the first non-Muslim country to issue an Islamic bond, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Sajid Javid unveiled the Islamic Finance and Investment Group at the World Islamic Economic Forum in London.

The Group, chaired by the Rt Hon Baroness Warsi, will include members

from key Islamic finance centres, including Chief Executives and Central Bank Governors from Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, the UK and Malaysia. It will meet regularly to identify and address the critical factors that will drive the global Islamic finance market over the next 5 years.

Bringing together senior experts and practitioners from industry and governments the group will meet for the first time in January 2014 to consider the issues surrounding Islamic finance and how best to work together to promote its development. Drawing on London's experience as a leading global financial centre, the group will play an important role in helping to grow the

Islamic finance market going forward.

Sajid Javid said: "I am delighted that the government is establishing this Group. We are competing in a global race and it is crucial that we, as a country that is open for business, know what we need to do to take advantage of the Islamic finance opportunities that are out there.

"The Islamic Finance and Investment Group will be perfectly placed to pick up on developing trends and will have the expertise to help Islamic finance grow globally, as well as developing London as one of the world's leading Islamic finance centres."

Final scope and membership will be confirmed at the Dubai Global Islamic Economy Summit next month.

EU renegotiation "doomed to failure"

Nigel Farage has applauded José Manuel Barroso, the European Commission President's frank honesty when referring to David Cameron's plans to fundamentally revise the UK's relationship with the European Union.

"Yet again", he said, "We see European politicians telling the truth about the realities of the EU. Barroso describes Cameron's plans as "doomed to failure". So they are.

"It is about time that the pro-European establishment of this country was honest with us. There will be no change in our relationship with the EU, before during or after Cameron's futile renegotiations. The EU knows this, Cameron knows his and the people of this country need to know this too.

"It is no use being promised a referendum on the never never. This country needs honesty and a choice now."

Flanders soil arrives in Britain

The unique 2-day event in London will see the soil, held in 70 sandbags, taken across the capital and added as a focal point to a new Flanders Fields Memorial Garden.

The garden, based at Wellington Barracks on Birdcage Walk, is being specially created to mark the centenary of the First World War in 2014.

During the course of the summer 1,000 schoolchildren from Belgium and Britain filled sandbags with soil from each of the 70 First World War Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries and battlefields in Flanders.

In a ceremony on Armistice Day, under the arch of the Menin Gate (which commemorates all those British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the First World War with no known grave), the sandbags were then loaded onto a First World War era gun carriage to begin a journey those

who died on Flanders Fields were never able to make.

The soil arrived in London on the Belgian Navy frigate Louise-Marie. The ship passed under Tower Bridge, raised fully for the occasion, and moored alongside HMS Belfast on the Thames.



Soldiers crossing duckboards during the third Battle of Ypres on 20 October 1917

[Picture: Imperial War Museum]

Sandbags will be carried on a gun carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and escorted by the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment through central London.

The solemn procession will

arrive at the memorial garden at Wellington Barracks via major London landmarks such as Tower Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace.

There will be a special service following the procession where the 'sacred soil' will be placed with the other soil which will make up the base of the garden, which is located by the Guards Chapel.

The Flanders Fields Memorial Garden, designed by Belgian architect Piet Blankaert, is intended to be a quiet place of reflection and contemplation.

The central circular bed of the garden will hold the 'sacred soil' that carries the memories of the millions who died, and will have the words of John McCrae's famous poem 'In Flanders Fields' inscribed upon it.

The garden will be opened officially following the London Cenotaph ceremony on 9 November 2014.

Payday lending: tougher new rules welcomed by government

Tough new payday lending rules put forward by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) are a clear signal to the payday lending market that they need to get their houses in order, Treasury minister Sajid Javid has said.

The new rules state that a loan can be rolled over no more than twice, and lenders must signpost borrowers to debt advice at a rollover. The FCA has the powers to take strong, bold action to protect borrowers.

Its announcement sets out robust new standards for the industry, demonstrating that the FCA is prepared to be tough and decisive in defending consumers' interests when it comes to payday lending.

Economic Secretary to the Treasury Sajid Javid said: "These rules are a clear signal to the payday lending market that they need to get their houses in order now. We set the FCA up to put consumers first and these rules do that. Payday lenders now know what the FCA expects of them and will have to comply or face tough sanctions.

The government wants to see financial rules that protect hardworking people from sharp practice in the financial sector.

Clegg 52-week paternity plans at odds with life in the real world

Proposals by Nick Clegg to alter parental leave rules have been described as “unworkable” by UKIP deputy leader Paul Nuttall.

The Deputy Prime Minister believes the current system allowing a father to only take two weeks paternity leave is “old fashioned” and proposes parents share 52 weeks leave.

“This idea could only come from a completely out of touch politician who has never worked in the real world. The government should be helping businesses flourish, not add to the miles of red tape that is strangling them,” said Mr Nuttall, North West MEP

“This proposal will harm businesses, particularly smaller ones and will prove unworkable.

“And it hardly ties in with the recently announced plans to encourage breastfeeding with vouchers. New mums can hardly breastfeed – as everyone knows is best – if they’ve gone back to work after a fortnight leaving dad in charge.

“It may not suit this government and their pursuit of the equality agenda but men and women are inherently different. Fathers can be fantastic house husbands but the reality is that caring for babies comes much more instinctively to women.

“Of course they should go back to work as soon as they want but most women want to stay with their new baby and Clegg’s proposals will cause terrible uncertainty and expense for business,” he added.

London MEP slams Cameron over environment in wake of climate report

EURO-MP Jean Lambert has slammed David Cameron’s claim to lead ‘the greenest Government ever’ after the latest report by the world’s leading climate scientists warned that runaway climate change fuelled by carbon dioxide emissions is a real possibility.

The Green MEP said the Government’s claim to be the greenest ever was ‘little more than hot air’.

“Cameron has been very good at talking the talk – agreeing, for example, that the UK should reduce its carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 – but awful at walking the walk and establishing both the policies and follow-up measures to ensure emissions actually fall,”

said Ms Lambert.

“Put simply, the latest report published today by the IPCC (1), implies that that we must drastically cut emissions now – not in 2050.

“We need to stop burning fossil fuels – and simply leave them in the ground. Instead we must move towards a zero-carbon economy: of course it’s feasible – if Germany can plan and act on this, we can.

“Banning fracking and massively increasing spending on renewable energy production and energy efficiency would be a good start: it’s just a question of political will.”

Badger Vaccination Grant application window extended

The Badger Vaccination Grant provides farmers, landowners and others who wish to vaccinate badgers against bovine TB with the opportunity to benefit from financial support covering up to half their costs.

Alun Davies said: "I am delighted by the high level of interest we have had so far in the grant. Because of this, we are extending the application window until 28 February 2014 to give potential applicants an extra eleven weeks to apply.

"I recognise that the eradication of TB requires a long-term approach that includes a number of different measures and relies upon the support and cooperation of Welsh farmers and landowners. I

would encourage anybody interested in privately vaccinating badgers on their land to take advantage of this grant which I see as another step towards our ultimate goal of a TB free Wales."

The grant, which will run until 2019, will apply to privately delivered vaccination projects outside the Intensive Action Area. The vaccination project in the Intensive Action Area will continue to be delivered and funded by the Welsh Government.

Applications received by 13 December 2013 will be considered in January 2014, while applications received between 13 December 2013 and 28 February 2014 will be considered in March 2014.

Plastic bag charge set to benefit the environment

A five pence mandatory charge for single use carrier bags will be introduced from Autumn 2015, the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has announced.

Last year, over seven billion carrier bags were issued by supermarkets in England. Far too many ended up in landfill or scattered around our streets and rivers killing wildlife and costing tax-payers millions of pounds to clean-up.

Similar charges in Ireland, Wales and Switzerland have led to an 80 per cent reduction in the number of carrier bags issued.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, said: "Plastic carrier bags blight our towns and countryside. They take hundreds of years to degrade and can kill animals.

"This is not a new problem. We've waited too long for action. That's why I am drawing a line under the issue now. The charge will be implemented sensibly – small

businesses will be exempt.

"We will discuss with retailers how the money raised should be spent but I call on them to follow the lead of industry in Wales and donate the proceeds to charity."

Environment Minister Lord de Mauley said: "We have all seen the effects of discarded plastic bags caught in trees and hedges or ending up in rivers where they harm animals.

"Introducing a small charge for plastic bags will make people think twice before throwing them away. Year on year, the number of bags issued by retailers has been rising. Without a charge, the problem could escalate out of control and see our environment and animals suffer enormously."

It's expected that the charging scheme in England will follow the Welsh model in which retailers voluntarily give profits to charity. Small businesses with fewer than 250 employees will be exempt from the charge to ensure that they are not disproportionately burdened by the charges.

The government will also incentivise biodegradable bags. A new high standard for these products will be developed with manufactures. Bags which meet that standard will be exempt from the charge.

Keeping children safe online after Christmas tablet buying boom

With tablet computers expected to be one of the top Christmas presents for kids this year, parents face anxiety over what their children will look at online.

The Government has been working with industry to help parents protect their children from inappropriate online content.

The big four internet service providers (ISPs) – TalkTalk, Virgin, Sky and BT – have all agreed to introduce network level filters that would cover all internet devices in the home.

Network level filters allow parents to limit their children's access to adult content by making one universal selection. They no longer have to install filters on every separate device in the home.

TalkTalk and Sky have already made network filters available, while BT and Virgin will follow within the next two months.

A recent Ofcom report showed a dramatic rise in the number of younger children owning tablets. The use of tablet computers has tripled among 5 to 15-year-olds since 2012 (42%, up from 14%), and 28% of infants aged 3-4 now use a tablet at home.

Culture Secretary Maria Miller said:

“Many more children will be unwrapping smartphones and tablet devices on Christmas Day.

“ For parents and children, the internet is fast becoming part of everyday life at work, at school and socially but parents are rightly wary

about what children are being exposed to online.

“ We have worked with industry to make it far easier for parents to be confident their children are being protected.

“ Parents need to think about putting filters on their accounts and finding out more about keeping children safe online.”

The four main ISPs – who supply internet connections to almost 9 out of 10 UK homes – have also agreed that all new broadband customers will have the settings for family friendly filters automatically switched on.

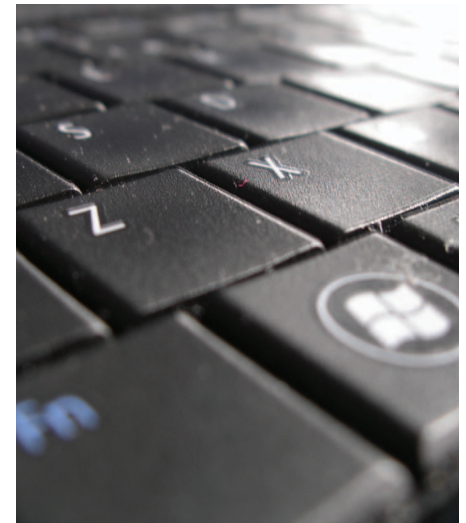
And by the end of 2014 all existing customers will have been presented with an unavoidable choice about installing family friendly

content filters which the user will not be able to skip.

Only the adult account holder will be able to change the filter settings.

Outside the home, all mobile operators have agreed to ensure that adult content is filtered and users will have to prove they are over 18 to switch them off.

Family friendly filters are now being applied to public wi-fi by the six companies that provide 90% of public wi-fi across the UK.



Osborne should note the Bank's fears about the housing market



By Peter Hoskin
Associate Editor of ConservativeHome
website www.conservativehome.com

Is it optimism or is it fear? That's the question that rushed to my mind, yesterday, as the Bank of England announced that it is going to withdraw its Funding for Lending scheme away from mortgages and focus it on small businesses. It's doing so in agreement with George Osborne, apparently.

The easy, and possibly true, answer is that it's a bit of both. It's optimism because

it represents an acceptance that the mortgage-backing part of the scheme – which, in the memorable words of one analyst, has “bathed the mortgage market in cheaper credit” – has done its job, and is decreasingly necessary as the economy improves. It's fear because it suggests that the Bank is wary of fuelling a housing market that, thanks to other schemes, such as Help to Buy, is getting hotter and hotter.

But it's still striking how much emphasis the Bank is placing on the second motivation – the fear one. It came through even in their sober press release yesterday, which noted that “house price inflation appears to be gaining momentum”. But it's been even more explicit in what

people have been saying behind-the-scenes. One “senior policy maker” tells the Financial Times that “The BoE no longer wants to put its name to devices that stimulate the mortgage market.”

The politics of this situation are worth keeping an eye on. Not only do we have the real, pocket-book effects that may sway people's voting intentions ahead of the next election: house prices, mortgage rates, inflation, and so on. There's also the possibility that the Bank could become more proactive in cooling the housing market. Mark Carney clarified this week that the Financial Policy Committee cannot terminate the Help to Buy scheme, nor demand that the Treasury do so, but it

can offer “recommendations” at any time. If the Bank were to start making unkind noises about one of Osborne's flagship policies, it could be rather awkward for the Chancellor.

For now, though, there's just the measure that has been announced. When the Funding for Lending scheme was launched, I registered my scepticism that small businesses actually want all the credit that politicians are eager to push on them. But far better that it's being pushed towards them than into a housing market that doesn't need the encouragement.



Greens welcome ‘urgently needed’ Domestic Violence Protection Scheme

The Green Party Home Affairs spokesperson, Peter Cranie, has welcomed the extension of the Domestic Violence Protection scheme to the whole of the UK. The schemes was piloted in Greater Manchester and will be extended to cover all of England and Wales from March 2014.

Cranie said: “This scheme is urgently needed to provide support to those experiencing domestic violence. As a former child protection social worker, I’ve seen the appalling impact that domestic violence can have on families, and have worked first hand to tackle it. I welcome this measure, which addresses some of the issues around domestic violence, but there is a

great deal more to do.”

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, also released this week, highlights that violence and sexual violence against women and girls has become routine in some parts of the country. The report finds that the objectification of women in music and pornographic industries has a great deal to answer for in creating such attitudes, with young girls being treated as commodities within gangs.

Peter added: “Our society’s values rely on those who play leading roles setting the tone. The continued objectification of women, for example on page 3 of the Sun newspaper, shows

that businesses such as News International are failing to live up to their responsibilities. While we must take steps to protect those who face immediate risks from violence, there is a bigger societal shift that is needed. Right now we have a so-called “news” paper which continues to promote women as objects. That has to change if we are to make wider changes in attitude.”

Caroline Lucas MP has been at the forefront of the NoMorePage3 campaign and the Green Party will continue to challenge sexism, remaining at the forefront of equal rights campaigning.

Net migration from EU continues to rise, latest figures show

As the debate over immigration continues, figures released today from the Office for National Statistics disclosed that net migration – the difference between the number of people emigrating and the number of immigrants arriving in Britain – was 182,000 in year ending June 2013, an increase of 15,000.

There has been a significant increase in the number of EU nationals coming to the UK for work and that is before the border controls which presently restrict the number of Romanians and Bulgarians are scrapped on January 1.

Net migration from the EU has gone up by 72,000 in the previous year to 106,000.

There has been a decrease in net migration from non-EU countries, from 172,000 to 140,000.

Flu vaccination uptake strong, but much more to do

The latest flu vaccination figures from part way through the seasonal flu programme indicate many older people, pregnant women, people in at risk groups, and for the first time, 2 and 3 year old children, have been vaccinated to date as part of this season's on-going flu vaccine campaign in preparation for the forthcoming winter flu season.

As of 24 November 2013, the provisional proportion of people in England who had received the 2013 to 2014 influenza vaccine in targeted groups were:

- 43.6% in under 65 years in a clinical risk group
- 34.0% in all pregnant women
- 67.0% in 65+ year olds

From September 2013, all children aged 2 and 3 years are also being offered protection against flu, using a newly available nasal spray flu vaccine. This marks the first step in an extension to the national flu vaccination programme, which will eventually include yearly vaccination of all 2 to 16 year olds. Current figures for flu vaccination uptake among children as of 24 November were:

- 34.1% in all 2 year olds
- 30.6% in all 3 year olds

Preparation for winter flu started in September 2013 with a flu vaccination programme. A range of surveillance indicators are used to measure flu activity in the UK. At the moment

these remain low across the UK, suggesting there is presently no evidence of community transmission of influenza.

Dr. Richard Pebody, a flu expert at Public Health England said:

It is great to see so many people taking steps to protect themselves already this flu season, but it's important everyone in the targeted groups consider getting vaccinated. Flu has not started to circulate yet and there is still time to take up the opportunity of vaccination.

For most people influenza infection is just a nasty experience, but for some it can lead to illnesses that are more serious, including bronchitis and secondary

bacterial pneumonia, which can be life threatening.

Older people and those groups at risk of developing complications include people with weakened immune systems, as well as those with underlying conditions such as neurological disorders, liver, lung or renal disease, heart problems or diabetes, and pregnant women. Vaccination remains the best way to protect against the potential serious harm from flu this winter.



The Conservatives' Plan to control immigration from the EU – and fix Labour's failures

David Cameron has set out his long-term plan to control immigration from the EU.

In 2004, Labour had the power to impose a seven-year ban before EU migrants could enter Britain. But Labour opted out of those transitional controls, allowing more than a million immigrants to come here.

Three years later, Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU. That was the moment to address difficult questions about when to allow new entrants full access to each others' labour markets – but Labour ducked these questions.

The problem was compounded by Labour's failed education and welfare policies, which let down millions of young people and didn't make work pay – leaving a hole in our labour market for EU migrants to fill.

But the Conservatives are fixing Labour's failures on immigration. Our plan includes:

- Tackling Britain's skills shortage by improving education, providing record numbers of apprenticeships and fixing welfare to make work pay
- Ensuring that nobody entering Britain can claim work benefits for the first three months, and thereafter for no longer than six months
- Stopping new EU jobseekers claiming housing benefit
- Removing people who are not here to work
- Fining employers up to £20,000 for every migrant they hire at below the minimum wage – that's four times higher than the current maximum fine

The Conservatives have already cut net immigration by a third and we will also seek a new settlement with Europe that limits EU immigration to more sensible levels.

We will then put that settlement to the British people in an in-out referendum – unlike Labour, who want to deny the British people their say.

#ShareTheFacts with everyone you know.



Prime Minister David Cameron

CEMETERY LAND WANTED FOR SALE OR LEASE

Do you have cemetery land or crematoria sections with onerous maintenance or health and safety financial burdens or land you think full or unsuitable for burial?

welters® are seeking to purchase or lease unused and 'unusable' parcels of cemetery land or old unpurchased grave areas within existing cemeteries.

We know from experience that even when cemeteries are 'closed' to new burials it is typical to find areas that have never been buried in for one reason or another.

Similarly, there are many unpurchased or 'common' grave areas which can readily be recommissioned for use to provide much needed interment opportunities to the cemetery.

With no "change of use" required from a planning perspective, it could be possible to develop a high-end interment and memorial facility and we would be happy to visit and assess any such areas with a view to developing and managing them under one of our Cemetery Village scheme partner programmes.

Please email
admin@welters-worldwide.com
for information

Life-changing prosthetics technology

At a facility at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court, some of the 50 patients who have been fitted with 'bionic' legs, which have provided essential new movement possibilities, talked about their experiences.

Government funding is providing new prosthetics, including the Genium 'bionic' leg made famous by Private Derek Derenalagi in the 2012 Paralympic Games.

Earlier this year the government committed over £6.5 million to guarantee that injured personnel and veterans with above-the-knee amputations could receive the latest technology prosthetics.

Ninety 'bionic' legs have since been fitted, which give patients the ability

to step over obstacles, negotiate stairs and walk backwards safely.



The Genium bionic prosthetic leg system [Picture: Ottobock]

Just over 6 months after receiving the new prosthetics, patients have told their inspirational stories about how their lives have been improved, including being able to play with their children in the garden and even gaining the confidence to dance in public.

Other visible improvements have included a faster

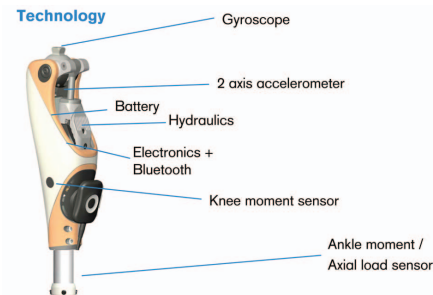
response to muscle commands and significantly reduced back pain.

Attending the facility earlier today, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said: "Our priority has always been to give our troops the best possible care and support. That's why we announced £6.5 million earlier this year to ensure our personnel and veterans injured in Afghanistan and Iraq have been able to upgrade to the most technologically-advanced prosthetics available.

"I am also delighted to see first-hand how the new 'bionic' leg has inspired confidence amongst our personnel and provided them with new opportunities including better stability, greater mobility and reduced back pain."

Corporal Matt Webb of the Royal Marines, who was injured in Afghanistan, said:

Since I have been using



A view inside the Genium bionic prosthetic system technology [Picture: Ottobock]

the Genium joints, I have found it a lot easier to stand still and negotiate slopes and stairs. The other main benefit for me is being able to walk without expending as much energy as I used to, which helps me to walk for longer.

Funding for the new prosthetics represents the government's commitment to the armed forces covenant, ensuring that anyone injured while serving their country gets special consideration and the best possible medical treatment.

It builds on the new £17 million rehabilitation complex at Headley Court and £5 million announced last year to modernise and refurbish accommodation – ensuring our injured personnel get the very best.

Sustainable Interment Solutions for New and Used Burial Land

Affordable Innovation

We 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 programmed 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 our cemetery acquisition programmes.



7 interments - above and below ground sarcophagi burial chamber scheme

Our specialist "sustainable" manufacturing programmes and environmental policies remain a core value to our business model as we continue to grow and develop our manufacturing and development base.

Our Continuous Care and Support programmes are an important part of our service delivery which includes maintenance of installations, training of client personnel in the safe and correct use of our product and systems, provision of twenty four hour year-round interment support for burial chambers and mausoleums where our interment teams will be on-hand to ensure interments are carried out successfully on behalf of the client.

Visit our website for details of what we can offer:

welters-worldwide.com



Multi-level, above and below ground burial chamber and Mausoleum Cemetery Village® scheme



Multi-level, above and below ground burial chamber and sarcophagi Cemetery Village® scheme



Burial chamber Cemetery Village® scheme

UK's largest coastal habitat flood scheme set to open in Sussex

Manmade coastal flood habitat set to double in next 12 months.

Medmerry, the largest ever coastal flood realignment scheme. The country's largest ever coastal flood realignment scheme was completed November 4th in Medmerry, West Sussex. The £28 million Medmerry scheme will protect 350 properties, two holiday parks and a water treatment works from coastal flooding, in addition to providing 180 hectares of habitat for wading birds such as the rare black-tailed godwit, and protected species such as the water vole. The scheme is due to open to the public later this year; the RSPB will manage the wildlife habitat and the Environment Agency will manage the flood defences.

Led by the Environment Agency, seven kilometres of new walls were built behind the old defences, which were breached, creating 180 hectares of coastal habitat – equivalent to more than 300 football pitches. The completion of the scheme will double the amount of manmade coastal flood habitat in the UK once the 400 hectare Steart Peninsula project opens in Somerset next year.

One in six at risk of flooding

Environment Agency Chairman Lord Chris Smith said: "With one in six people at risk of flooding in England, schemes such as Medmerry have a key role to play in protecting people and property. They also have an important role

in the local economy by encouraging more visitors to the area. Creating large-scale habitat is vital to ensuring the survival of the country's endangered species, improving water quality and reducing carbon."

Supporting the local community

Environment Minister Dan Rogerson said: "This new scheme will support the local community – not only minimising their flood risk but boosting growth through the new habitat and tourism opportunities."

"We want to protect people and help support growth in local economies through flood defence schemes. Together with partners we are spending over £2.3 billion to protect people from flooding and we are

on course to better protect 165,000 homes by 2015."

RSPB Chief Executive Mike Clarke said: "This ambitious project is a fantastic example of how we can create habitat for threatened wildlife, benefit local communities and deliver value for money for the taxpayer."

"The UK is internationally important for coastal wildlife, particularly the millions of migrating birds that rely on saltmarsh and mudflats. Saltmarsh is disappearing as a result of sea level rise."

"This project, which the Environment Agency has delivered, will become a thriving wildlife haven and a big draw for nature lovers. We should take confidence from the success here at Medmerry and help to secure our and nature's future by investing in these sort of landscape scale projects."

Other examples of natural coastal flood schemes completed by the Environment Agency in the last few years include RSPB Frieston Shore on The Wash, Alkborough Flats in the Humber estuary and Plusterwine in the tidal Severn.

The Art of Manufacturing

A new serialisation in eight parts

The Art of Manufacturing has been produced by Keith Walters to promote and encourage the desire to make manufacturing a prolific career path and enterprise within the UK.



Keith Walters is a leading UK manufacturer

Since the war, there has been a steady decline in manufacturing employment but a continuing rise in manufacturing output. Growth in technological advancement has enabled

greater production using fewer workers who are generally more highly skilled.

The mass employment of workers performing labour-intensive and repetitive tasks has largely been replaced by machines or outsourced to 'offshore resources' such as China and India where manpower, products and components can be cheaply supplied.

Whilst it could be argued that it's 'all built in China now', the UK still maintains its lead as a high-end manufacturer and is the sixth largest manufacturer in the world. The danger lies in these offshore resources 'squaring the circle' by producing highly skilled workers manufacturing high-end products of their own.

It is in fact the initiation and control of the full process that we need to pass on to future generations in order for the UK to continue to maintain and grow its skill base. Outsourcing will be detrimental to the future of our trades if it means using the skills of trained workers elsewhere, leading to the inevitable brain drain as home grown talents are forced to seek opportunities abroad.

This serialisation highlights the importance of training in trade skills to create the manufacturers of tomorrow.

Over the next eight issues we will be exploring the art of manufacturing from early civilisations to the modern age showing how it has shaped our society and how it continues to do so today.

welters[®]
ORGANISATION
WORLDWIDE
Design and Innovation



In the Beginning

Since ancient times manufacturing has formed the basis of all successful civilisations.

The ability to make goods in high volume means a populous can be sustained and trade can be developed both internally and externally which in turn grows the populous and encourages more goods to be imported and exported as the trade routes expand.



As civilisations developed across northern Europe so too did the fulcrums of manufacturing technology upon which these emerging societies balanced, tipping in favour of some to the disadvantage of others.



If a society could not change and adapt to using new techniques and materials it would soon fall into decline.



If your trade is in manufacturing flint tools then the sight of a bronze axe would be very worrying!

The transition from one age to another has a very blurred edge spreading through cultures and countries at differing rates.

Specific Ages do not appear everywhere at the same time but are generally referred to in archaeological terms as periods of significant changes in the living patterns of a civilisation.

In Europe the end of the Stone Age is marked by the Neolithic, when humans moved from being hunter gatherers and instead built settlements and formed communities to grow crops and domesticate animals for food.



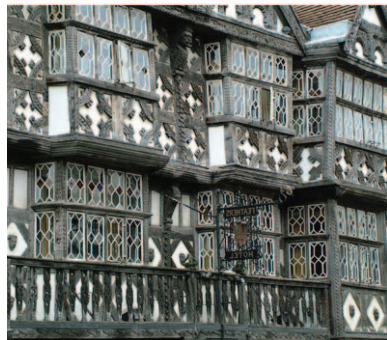
This allowed the development of farming tools and pottery techniques eventually leading to the smelting of copper and bronze alloy in kilns – this move from stone based technology is referred to as the **Age of Civilisation**.

Empires were created enabled by the successful development and exploitation of the technology of the age allowing them to dominate weaker less developed societies.

An army yielding flint spears are no match for one with forged shields and swords.

Within the rise and fall and evolution of civilisations creativity has always existed and in most cases thrived with design elements so strong they can define specific eras in history.

Greek, Roman, Elizabethan, Victorian are all recognisable as styles of their era and are as distinctive in their clothing or design of furniture as they are in their architecture.



A bowl, pot or cup, a necklace, bangle or brooch, a knife, axe or hammer, a tool, chair or table, items instantly recognisable to Bronze Age man as they are to us; what changes over the years is the way they are manufactured, yet this doesn't necessarily mean a technique employed 3000 years ago becomes redundant, it just means additional techniques evolve enabling a wider choice of manufacturing to take place.

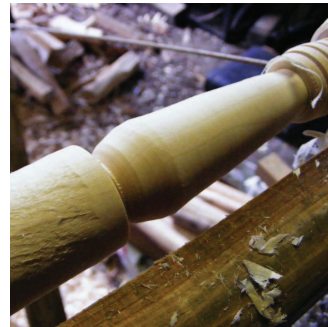
3000 year old objects



Modern day equivalents



The Windsor chair is a good example of how the manufacturing process also became selective, combining hand made elements and machine turned parts to create a single product.



The chair legs and uprights were originally turned on a pole lathe while the seat and backrest were hand crafted.



Design and repetitious production working together to create a marriage of Art and Technology which has and will stand the test of time.

If it looks good it probably is.

Part 2 'What is manufacturing?' will continue in our next edition.

White Paper claims rUK students would still be charged tuition fees



Ruth Davidson MSP

The SNP wants to charge students from the rest of the UK tuition fees – even if it succeeds in its independence bid.

The White Paper claimed it would still be possible for a separate Scotland to charge students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland fees, while allowing other EU entrants to study for free.

Given rUK students would

in effect be EU students under independence, the Scottish Conservatives said it would be highly likely the move would be subject to legal challenge.

The White Paper stated: “Following independence, the Scottish Government proposes to maintain the status quo by continuing our current policy of charging fees to students from the rest of the UK to study at Scottish higher education institutions.”

The Scottish Conservatives have also warned the disparity could lead to universities favouring non EU students to keep funding levels up.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson MSP said: “If the SNP attempts

to charge students from the rest of the UK tuition fees, should separation happen, it would be a field-day for lawyers.

“Why does Alex Salmond think he would be able to treat English, Welsh and Northern Irish students any differently from French, German and Italian ones?

“The EU rules are clear and this SNP proposal defies all logic and is simply not credible.

“Once challenged – as this policy would certainly be – the Scottish Government will find it very difficult to ensure our world-class universities receive the funding they deserve.

“They will be put in the position of having to source

foreign students at the expense of a domestic intake to fund courses and staff at current levels.

“That risks ostracising young, Scottish students – hardly the kind of vision a separate Scotland should be aiming for.”

The SNP set out its tuition fee plans on pg 199 of the document.



New plans to ensure healthy seas and a vibrant fishing industry

Speaking in the National Assembly, the Minister launched Wales' first Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan and set out how the Welsh Government would use its powers to manage Wales's seas sustainably and use them as a driver for economic growth in order to ensure the best long term outcome for the people of Wales.

Alun Davies said: "Marine and fisheries continue to be a priority for me. This plan is the beginning of the next phase of effective management of Welsh seas and aims to ensure that Wales has a sustainable marine and fisheries industry that we can all benefit from and be proud of.

"In order to reach this goal we know we need a real

focus on ensuring that our seas are a healthy marine eco-system. It is this focus on healthy and diverse seas that will ensure that Welsh waters deliver the best long term economic outcome for coastal communities and the people of Wales more widely and will help us maintain and develop a vibrant and successful fishing industry."

As part of his statement the Minister reiterated his commitment to developing a Welsh National Marine Planning Process by 2015 to provide a basis for the sustainable use of Wales' marine resource. The Welsh Government will start engaging with its partners on this work over the next month.

The Minister said: "I want to establish a marine planning

system that Wales can be proud of and which says to the world that Wales is open for business in the sustainable use of our seas, whether that be for fishing, transport, tourism or renewable energy purposes."

In its Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan the Welsh Government says it will:

- Create the right environment for new and existing businesses to prosper, in order to grow the coastal economy
- Simplify current administrative and licensing procedures
- Work with local marine and fisheries businesses to make sure they can fully utilise the European funds available, notably the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

(EMFF)

- Develop marine policy so that it supports 'blue growth'
- Aim to double Wales' annual finfish aquaculture output from 1000 tonnes to 2000 tonnes by 2020
- Aim to double shellfish production from 8000 to 16000 tonnes by 2020
- Continue to develop three Inshore Fisheries Groups across Wales to improve the management of fisheries and develop partnership working between Welsh Government and Fisheries
- Establish industry groups to manage fishing quota levels in the most effective Way

The Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan sets out specific initiatives that the Welsh Governments will undertake to support marine and fisheries and also includes a timeline for activity.



Government to cap payday loan costs

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that the government will legislate to introduce a cap on the cost of payday loans.

The cap will be formally established through amendments to the Banking Reform Bill which is currently going through Parliament.

The announcement builds on the steps that the government has already taken to help consumers. It has created a new regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), with much stronger powers to protect consumers in financial services, and has given the FCA powers to cap the cost of payday loans. This amendment will put a duty on the FCA to use those powers to impose a cap.

The government has always kept the case for a cap under review as the market has evolved. With growing evidence in support of a cap and emerging lessons from other countries – especially the cap on costs introduced in Australia this year – the government believes it is right to use the opportunity of this legislation for Parliament to be clear on its intention.

The government has discussed and agreed this with the FCA. To ensure that there is an evidence-based approach to designing the cap, the government is asking the FCA as regulator to use its existing planned work to report on its proposed approach.

Meanwhile, payday lenders

are already on notice following the announcement by the FCA of tough new rules they will have to meet next year.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne said: We have created a powerful new consumer regulator to regulate the payday lending industry and now we're asking them to set a cap on the cost of credit. That will make sure that hardworking people are served by the banking system. It is a far change from the situation we inherited, where the industry was almost entirely unregulated.

We're going to have a cap on the total cost of credit – we're looking at the whole package, not just the interest fee, but also the arrangement fees as

well as the penalty fees. This is all about having a banking system that works for hardworking people and making sure some of the absolutely outrageous fees and unacceptable practices are dealt with. It's all about the government being on the side of hardworking people.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Sajid Javid, said:

The government is determined to protect hardworking people from sharp practice in the financial sector. The payday loan sector must get its house in order and extortionate costs must become a thing of the past. That is why the government is legislating to cap the total cost of payday loans.



A payday loans sign in Birmingham

Help for new home buyers will boost house building across Wales

From 2 January, the Welsh Government's £170 million Help to Buy – Wales shared equity loan scheme will make home ownership easier for buyers of new homes who have small cash deposits.

On a visit to a Redrow housing development in Newport Carl Sargeant said: "There's no doubt that the recession and a tightening of mortgage lending have made getting onto the property ladder much tougher in recent years. Buyers without a large deposit are increasingly finding that home ownership is not an option.

"The financial crisis has led to a dramatic fall in house building activity as builders scale back their plans in line with buyer demand.

"The Help to Buy – Wales scheme beginning in the New Year, will help more people get onto the property ladder and will provide much needed boost to the building industry in Wales. The investment will support the purchase of around 5,000 new homes in Wales during the next two and a half years.

"To limit scope for confusion, the scheme in Wales matches the UK Government scheme quite closely but it has the added benefit of being easier for small home builders to access.

"I therefore urge all builders, large and small, to register now so that they are ready for the first loans being made available to buyers in January."

Richard Price, the Home Builders Federation's Planning and Policy Advisor in Wales said: "The launch of Help to Buy Wales is an extremely welcome step that will give many more people in Wales the opportunity to buy a brand new home.

"It shows the Welsh Government's commitment to seeing an increase in home building in Wales. The scheme will lead to increased economic activity and many new jobs in the home building industry and the supply chain, giving a vital boost to the Welsh economy."

Steve Morgan, Chairman of Redrow Homes added "We very much welcome this much-needed boost for the Welsh housing market

and look forward to working with the Welsh Government to help more people get onto, and move up, the housing ladder.

"The Help to Buy – Wales scheme will provide the Welsh housing market with essential momentum and will ensure that more homes get built. It will also create valuable jobs in the construction industry."

Paul Smee, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders said: "We have worked closely with lenders and the Welsh Government to ensure the Help to Buy – Wales shared equity loan scheme works for the specific Welsh market conditions. We believe the scheme will have a positive effect in improving conditions for home-buyers which the CML fully supports."



UK Rare Diseases Strategy launched

The strategy, agreed upon and published simultaneously by all three devolved nations and the Department of Health in England, is a response to the UK Government's agreement in 2008 with other EU Member States to a European Council recommendation asking Member States to develop national plans or strategies on rare diseases.

Rare diseases are those which affect only one person in 5,000 or fewer, and the development of national strategies across the EU is expected to improve the consistency of patient care in each country and promote integration, collaboration and research across Europe.

Health Minister Mark Drakeford said: "This is an important strategy which, when implemented, will

help not only patients and their families affected by rare diseases, but also clinicians, by offering clearer diagnostic and support pathways. It will assist the NHS in looking at how it can better manage the challenge of rare diseases."

A broad range of interested parties have contributed to the preparation of the strategy, ranging from patient groups and researchers to professional bodies; and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England will issue individual implementation plans in the New Year setting out how they will each action the strategy.

A group including Welsh Government, the NHS and the voluntary sector is currently working on preparing the Welsh implementation plan.

Gloucestershire badger cull ends

Culling operations ceased on Saturday 30 November, following discussions between the cull company in West Gloucestershire, Natural England and the NFU that the license for the extension would end.

The decision was taken based on the decreasing number of badgers seen by contractors over recent weeks which made achieving a further significant reduction in the coming weeks unlikely. Figures show that in the additional 5 weeks and 3 days of culling, 213 badgers have been removed, giving an overall total of 921. This represents a reduction of just under 40% in the estimated badger population before culling began.

The Independent Panel of Experts will now consider the information collected during the pilots on the safety, effectiveness and humaneness of controlled shooting. This will inform decisions on the wider roll-out of badger control in those parts of England most severely affected by this disease.

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson said in a statement to parliament:

"The aim of the extension was to achieve the earliest and greatest possible impact on bTB in the area, in line with the Chief Veterinary Officer's advice that a further significant reduction of the badger population in the first year would increase the likelihood of disease benefits in cattle over the full four years of the cull.

"The decision to extend has been shown to be the right one, with significant numbers of badgers removed at the point that the extension was ended."

A written statement is published on the parliament website.

Green Party: Gassing of badgers is 'inhumane' and must not get the green light

The government is exploring the possibility of gassing badgers to cull carriers of bovine TB, Environment Secretary Owen Paterson told MPs in response to a question today from Brighton Pavilion's Green MP Caroline Lucas.

The Green Party yesterday called for an immediate end to all licensed badger culls and today voices its staunch opposition to the potential gassing of badgers.

The six-week badger cull pilot scheme in Somerset has now ended. However, the firm carrying out the cull has asked for more time after its marksmen fell short of killing the target of 70% of the badger population (1).

Mr Paterson said: "Until we can establish vaccines, we have to use the tools used

by other sensible countries – which is to remove wildlife – we made it quite clear in our TB strategy we would look at other methods of removing wildlife, and yes we are looking at gassing, but we will not use it unless it is proven to be safe, humane, and effective."

Green Party Leader Natalie Bennett, who yesterday called the pilot cull scheme "inhumane", "unscientific", and "shambolic", said:

"I am very disturbed by Mr Paterson's response to a question today from Green MP Caroline Lucas about the possibility of the government authorising the gassing of badgers.

"This has previously, rightly been discarded as an inhumane option, and those arguments continue to hold.

"I very much hope his words will not be interpreted as a green light for illegal gassing of settings, of which there have been credible reports.

"Mr Paterson is right that we need to get serious about dealing with bovine TB and the losses it causes, which means he should be working with wildlife groups and farmers to develop a coordinated plan across England to vaccinate badgers and improve biosecurity to reduce transmission among cattle and between cattle, badgers and other wildlife.

"Every day he pursues the slaughter of indigenous, much-loved wildlife is another wasted day we are not taking real action to protect farmers from the heavy costs of bovine TB"

Extra EU cash call

The Scottish Parliament has called for the UK's extra European farming subsidy to be allocated to Scotland in its entirety.

The 'convergence uplift' is worth tens of millions of euros a year and during a debate on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, MSPs backed the Scottish Government's calls for the additional cash to come to Scotland.

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Richard Lochhead said: "It is essential that Scotland receives the fairest possible deal from the UK's CAP allocation.

"This extra subsidy will be worth more than €60 million a year by 2020, totalling around €230 million over the whole budget period. The only reason that the UK qualifies for the uplift is because of Scotland's low payments under the current system. Therefore it is only fair that this additional cash is allocated to Scotland in its entirety.

"This is not a case of taking money away from farmers in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. This is money that belongs to Scottish farmers and it is only right that it should come to Scottish farmers. In the new CAP, Scotland will likely have lower rates per hectare, in both Pillars, than every member state in Europe. This modest uplift would be a small step in the right direction."

Lower energy bills or frozen bills?

By John Redwood MP

Shortly we will see the Coalition offer on our energy bills. Current briefing suggests we can look forward to a £50 cut in the bill from the Coalition. This outbids the promise of a freeze from Labour should they win the 2015 election. Their promise does not explain how they would stop big rises before and after the freeze.

The Coalition is unlikely to offer the full £100 plus of green costs off the bills. The Lib Dems have been fighting hard to keep the bills up, as they like the green costs and charges and wish to make lower carbon emissions one of the main aims of energy policy. A compromise will be brokered as a result.

Based on this exchange, I would rather have the Coalition offer, and will vote

for it accordingly. Around £50 off is progress. Slowing down, revising or making cheaper some of the green programmes will help at the margin to control the power bill.

All this is, however, modest progress compared to the largest part of our electricity costs. The truth is these are firmly driven by EU policies which Mr Miliband signed up to when in office. A £50 cut in costs will be eroded over the years ahead as the full costs of many more windfarms, and the impact of the plant closures of the cheaper power stations comes to be felt in full.

The only way in the future to get lower energy bills is to generate electricity in cheaper ways. The USA has cheaper energy than us because it is embracing the shale gas revolution. For

those who are preoccupied by carbon dioxide outflows, the US policy is even cutting their CO2 output at the same time, as gas displaces other fossil fuels.

Our renegotiation of our relationship with the EU has to include as a central plank the need to control our own energy policy again, so we can pursue cheaper energy. Dear EU energy is one of several unpopular issues which will persuade more people to vote to leave the EU when we finally get a vote.



Cameron's latest immigration gimmick won't fix the problems

The Government's announcements in the immigration bill have been lambasted by UKIP as ineffective and badly targeted.

Paul Oakley UKIP MEP Candidate in London and criminal barrister, has called the Government's focus like "trying to put toothpaste back in the tube."

"Pressganging landlords, doctors and private citizens under the threat of sanctions to carry out the work of border agencies is simply wrong. The government are treating the symptoms not the cause.

"I do not want my children to grow up in a country where the demand of 'papers please' is normal. UKIP proposes that anybody wishing to enter the UK as a migrant worker, a tourist, or for the first five years of settlement, would need to have health insurance cover as a condition of getting a visa. We would roll this out to all non-EU overseas visitors until the point that the UK left the EU when the practise would be extended to all non-UK citizens arriving in the country.

"It would effectively and fairly prevent medical tourism and the exploitation of the NHS.

"What we have from the Coalition is gimmicks and gestures that won't fix the problems we face."

The art and the craft

The **welters®** family legacy is steeped in British Trade skills Culture and Keith Welters, the current Managing Principal is a Third generation City of London Freeman and Liveryman.

Utilising expert design and draughtmanship techniques the company is able to take control of a project from inception, providing concepts and visuals using a variety of disciplines and following them through to provide real world solutions.

These images illustrate the translation of designs for a disused and derelict cemetery chapel to transform it into a premium repositorium for cremated remains.

The building was renovated and fitted with solid oak niche cabinets with a variety of glass, wood and granite fronts creating a high-end facility for the client.

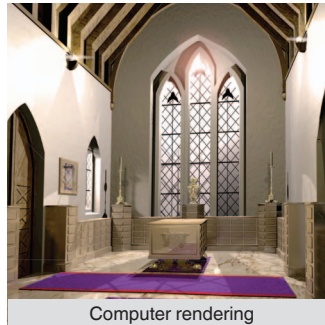
All the skills and services were provided by **welters®** using in-house resources.



Keith Welters, Managing Principal



Solid oak niche wall cabinets



Computer rendering



Renovated disused chapel



Water colour visual of oak niche cabinets



Solid oak niche cabinet



Renovated disused chapel

War on Want really are cretins aren't they?

By Tim Worstall, political blogger www.timworstall.com/

In 2007, Alliance Boots left the FTSE 100 by becoming a privately held firm in Europe's largest ever leveraged buyout (LBO). The transaction was led by US private equity firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P. and the company's Executive Chairman Stefano Pessina, a billionaire resident of Monaco. The LBO was financed largely with £9 billion in borrowings, more than 12 times the company's EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation & amortisation).

By taking on this level of debt, private equity-backed firms like Alliance Boots have the potential to erode the tax base in the country

where they locate their borrowings. Profits are, in effect, shifted abroad.

While Alliance Boots operates in 25 countries, largely through its wholesaling business, its more profitable retail business is mostly in the UK. Because all or almost all of the LBO debt was located in the UK, Alliance Boots has been able to deduct its finance costs from taxable income in its most profitable market. During the six-year period since the buyout, we calculate that the company was able to reduce its UK taxable income by an estimated £4.2 billion compared to what it would have paid had it not carried any debt, resulting in a tax bill reduced by an estimated £1.12 to £1.28 billion in taxes.

There is no evidence whatsoever that the tax bill has been reduced by one red penny. It could actually have increased.

It is true that profits are taxed at the company level. Interest paid is taxed at the level of the recipient. That the company is no longer paying tax on profits means, here, that the recipients of the interest are paying tax on that. There is thus no, I repeat absolutely none, evidence that the total tax bill has gone down.



Bringing Back Family Doctors

The Conservatives have secured a new GP contract that brings back family doctors.

Labour's 2004 contract broke that personal link between GP and patient.

Moreover, it piled target after target on doctors, removed their responsibility for out-of-hours care and put huge pressure on our A&E departments.

The new contract is a vital part of the Conservatives' long-term plan to fix Labour's failures.

We're restoring designated GPs for vulnerable elderly patients – in other words, proper family doctors able to give care to those most in need and prevent unnecessary hospital visits.

What's more, new rigorous inspections of GP surgeries will ensure that all patients will get the care they deserve.

The Conservatives are easing the long-term pressures on A&E services, empowering hard-working doctors and improving care for those with the greatest need.

#ShareTheFacts with everyone you know.

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.



FCO Minister Baroness Warsi in Pakistan to build UK trade

The UK and Pakistan have many strong connections that bind our people together. During Baroness Warsi's recent visit to Pakistan, discussions focussed on trade and the economy, and building partnerships between Pakistan and the UK in areas such as energy, security, education and retail.

One of Baroness Warsi's main messages was that a strong, prosperous and democratic Pakistan, that protects the rights of all in Pakistan, is vital for the security of the country and the region. Baroness Warsi was particularly keen to see the economic ties between the UK and Pakistan strengthened during the visit and so she was accompanied by a trade mission of leading UK businesses.

During her two day visit Baroness Warsi and the UK Trade Mission met the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Chief Minister of Punjab, the Finance Minister and other senior Government figures. She also met parliamentarians from a range of religious backgrounds as well as business leaders.

In December, London will host a dedicated UK-Pakistan trade conference to encourage more companies to follow the success of those already operating in Pakistan. There will be a specific focus on strong participation from the energy sector.



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Community mausolea in a London cemetery

Action on affordable water bills

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson has called on water companies to ensure that customers get a fair deal.

In a letter that has gone to all of the major water companies, Owen Paterson stressed the tough times that households are facing and the crucial role that the industry can play to bring costs down.

As part of government's plan to help hardworking people, water companies have been specifically asked by Ofwat to consider if they need to apply the full price increases next year allowed for in the 2009 Price Review.

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson said:

"We know that household budgets are under pressure, and keeping water bills affordable is a crucial way we can help hardworking people.

"That is why we are pressing hard to make sure customers get a fair deal, by encouraging water companies to look closely at any price increases, introduce social tariffs for vulnerable customers and crackdown on bad debt."

Since 2009, average increases in water and sewerage bills have been in line with inflation, and are just over a pound a day, but this has still substantially outstripped increases in household income.

For this reason, action is required to bring costs down and help families in these tough times. Action to date includes:

- Ofwat estimate that the next Price Review could significantly reduce pressure on bills from 2015 by between £120 million to £750 million a year
- a crack down on bad debt with the industry's worst performers challenged to match the performance of the best
- three major water companies introducing social tariffs to help vulnerable customers pay their bills and many more discussing this with their customers
- a new voluntary database for landlords to provide information about tenants to water companies –

and government committing to challenge landlords to demonstrate that further regulation is not needed

- a commitment to improve governance standards across the sector, including increased independent and customer representation on boards
- new measures in the Water Bill to ensure that there is an independent redress body to handle complaints that cannot be swiftly resolved by the companies themselves



Obesity can lead to harmful sleep disorder

Health Minister Edwin Poots has highlighted the services available to people in Northern Ireland suffering from Obstructive Sleep Apnoea.

The Minister was speaking at an awareness raising event organised by the British Lung foundation in Northern Ireland. Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) causes people to stop breathing while they sleep, resulting in oxygen fluctuations throughout the night.

Minister Poots said: "Various factors increase the risk of developing OSA, but greatest of all is obesity. As waistlines increase throughout society, so do the numbers of OSA cases. It is therefore imperative that services are available to meet this growing demand.

"Although there are a variety of easy, cost effective treatments available, many people suffering from the condition will battle on alone, due to lack of awareness amongst the general public and the medical professions. Lifestyle changes, such as losing excess weight, can often help mild cases of sleep apnoea to resolve. In more severe cases, the use of breathing apparatus while sleeping may be necessary."

The Regional Respiratory Clinic at Belfast City Hospital provides diagnostic testing and reporting for OSA, as well as subsequent monitoring and review for complex and non-complex patients. The Belfast Trust is working closely with the Health

and Social Care Board to further develop the service, which will include full Polysomnography testing. Work is also ongoing to develop the services available to OSA patients in other Trust areas.

The Minister continued: "The Health Service cannot effectively tackle the problem of respiratory conditions in our society in isolation and it is for this reason that organisations such as the British Lung Foundation can provide a vital link between sufferers of respiratory conditions in the community, healthcare professionals, my Department and the commissioners of services.

"The British Lung Foundation have been very supportive of the Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Wellbeing,

which sets standards in relation to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and palliative care of individuals and communities at a greater risk of developing respiratory disease.

Left untreated, OSA can increase the risk of stroke, heart attack and type 2 diabetes. It also causes chronic fatigue, which can have an adverse effect on an individual's social relationships and lead to poor performance at work or school. Ultimately, OSA has a significant detrimental impact on all areas of a sufferer's life.

The Minister concluded: "My Department looks forward to working with the Foundation in furthering the respiratory wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland going forward into the future."

Media enquiries about this press release should be directed to the DHSSPS press office on 028 9052 0505, or out of office hours contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 076 9971 5440 and your call will be returned.

Passengers to benefit from high-speed mobile broadband on trains

The rail industry is to roll out high speed mobile broadband on the busiest parts of Britain's rail network, Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin has announced.

Under the plans, 70% of the travelling public will benefit from the new technology by 2019, with passengers expected to begin noticing improvements to their journey during 2015.

Mobile signal on trains will be improved by a combination of an upgrade of Network Rail's existing infrastructure and the installation of equipment that alleviates the barriers to good signal on board a train.

Transport Secretary Patrick

McLoughlin said:

There are few things more frustrating than trying to phone a friend or access the internet, only to be thwarted by bad signal.

Passengers deserve to have the best mobile technology and that is why I am pleased that industry is coming together to make that a reality.

Be it hardworking commuters preparing for the day on their journey into work or leisure travellers making final plans for their weekend away, today's announcement marks the beginning of the end of poor coverage on our railways.

The programme will tackle a series of 'not-spots' –

areas along rail corridors with intermittent or poor coverage of mobile phone signals – delivering a consistent and reliable service for passengers on key routes.

Network Rail and industry will now work on a business case to outline how they will fund the improvements.

Alongside record levels of government investment that will see better, refurbished stations, new trains and the electrification of 850 miles of track, today's (30 September 2013) announcement will be crucial in delivering a rail network fit for the 21st Century.

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Tree of Life Memorial Fountain Area

Our Tree of Life fountain provides an inspired focus to this cremated remains memorial garden.

The garden provides commemorative features within the tree where additional inscribed leaves can be added. Further commemoration can be made with the memorial seating which incorporates a personalised memorial plaque.

Cremated remains interments can be carried out within the Majestic Memorial Mausolea which can accept up to four **welters®** cremated remains caskets.

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Emperor's New Green Clothes for Ed Miliband's Transport Team

The Green Party has slammed a move by Labour run Liverpool City Council to scrap bus lanes in the city. It follows a declaration from Liverpool's Labour Mayor that the lanes would be scrapped for a "trial" period. The decision has been condemned by local bus companies, taxi firms and local transport campaigners.

Peter Cranie, a Liverpool resident, and North West Euro candidate said: "Two of Liverpool's Labour MPs have prominent environmental roles. Louise Ellman chairs the House of Commons Transport Committee and Luciana Berger is the Shadow Minister for Climate Change. Yet neither MP has raised an eyebrow at a decision that has been taken with no

consultation and smacks of political populism from an increasingly out of control local Mayor."

"It exposes an unfortunate reality that the pre-election green talk from Labour is just hot air. Where they have executive power, their party is making decisions that will increase traffic, increase CO2 pollution and damage air quality in some of the most deprived areas of the city."

"This decision is a disgrace. The Labour councillors who have nodded this through should be ashamed of themselves and the Labour MPs in the city who have stood idly by have seen their own environmental credentials fatally undermined."

The local Labour Party

select committee chair has used his power to block this decision from a "call-in" to scrutinise the proposal, but the local Green Party councillors believe that the decision will be seen as irrational if subjected to judicial review, and will serve notice of their call-in notice today.

Cllr John Coyne, leader of the Green group on the council said: "In our city 46% of households do not have access to a car or van. The attempt to stitch this decision up and prevent the usual processes for scrutiny, shows that local Labour Party MPs and councillors are running scared of Mayor Joe Anderson. It is left to the Green Party to protect local air quality and to stand up for those who rely on public transport."

VAT cheats crackdown

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has seen an increased risk of fraudulent VAT repayment claims in Scotland and Northern Ireland, in particular businesses being set up purely for the purpose of making false VAT repayments claims. The VAT repayment taskforce – targeted at individuals and businesses – aims to tackle that and is set to bring in £7 million.

David Gauke, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, said: "This Government has made it clear that we will not tolerate tax evasion and has provided HMRC with the resources to crack down on those who break the rules.

"We are determined to support hardworking people who want to get on, but the people being targeted by these taskforces have no intention of playing by the rules."

HMRC has collected more than £90 million as a result of taskforces launched since 2011 to 2012. It expects to bring in over £90 million a year from taskforces launched over the next three years.

HMRC's Jennie Granger, Director General of Enforcement and Compliance, said: "It is really important that we level the playing field by stopping tax cheats. Deliberately falsifying VAT records can lead to imprisonment. Our message is – do the right thing. If you haven't already, come clean now. If you don't, we will find you, investigate you and, not only could you face a heavy fine, but you may face a criminal prosecution as well.

If you know anyone who is evading their taxes, you can tell HMRC by calling the Tax Evasion Hotline on 0800 788 887.

