



Government WORLD™

Summer 2015 Edition

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National News Headlines June 2015

1st June

- Carey: Church is 'one generation from extinction'
- Let ministers pick a side in EU vote, say Clarke and Redwood
- Returning IS fighters freed if they help combat radicalism

2nd June

- Ex-Lib Dem leader Kennedy dies at 55
- Sturgeon's warning to Tories over forced exit from EU
- No split over Human Rights bill, says minister

3rd June

- Outrage as MPs set to get £ 7,000 pay rise
- Blatter quits amid corruption scandal
- 50,000 more Londoners forced to take second job

4th June

- Arrests reveal rise in plots by jihadi terror gangs against Britain
- Household debt soars to a record level of £1.47trillion
- Millions denied chance to use pension like a bank account

5th June

- Now 350,000 sign petition to scrap MPs' £7k pay rise
- Greece stalls on £220m debt payment
- Expert urges sugary drinks tax to combat obesity crisis

6th June

- Hopes rise of in-out EU poll on May 5 next year
- Adverts for junk food 'should be banned'
- Minister calls for new age of 'beautiful' nuclear power



National News Headlines June 2015

7th June

- Cameron trying to load EU debate, say No campaigners
- Farah fury that name 'dragged through mud' in doping claim
- Poland warns Cameron not to fool voters over EU poll

8th June

- Now drivers face £ 200 on- the- spot fine for using mobile phones
- PM faces rebellion on unlimited cash for Yes campaign
- Mirren reigns at Tony theatre awards

9th June

- UK defence is not shrinking, Cameron tells his US critics
- SNP accused of renegeing on fiscal autonomy pledge
- Alton Towers crash victim loses leg

10th June

- 1D to see horror ride girl
- Gurkhas celebrate 200 years of service
- Make cultural allowances for abuse, says judge

11th June

- Migrant invasion out of control
- Osborne to sell off RBS at a £7billion loss to the taxpayer
- Ride hell teen able to stand

12th June

- Argentina fury as Cameron rebuffs Falkland ambush
- Hospitals lose millions by giving staff extra holiday
- Full fiscal autonomy under attack after oil price slump



National News Headlines June 2015

13th June

- Crackdown on smoking in cars with children is attacked
- Highland farewell for Kennedy
- Greek exit from euro 'is likeliest outcome'

14th June

- Cameron in crackdown on summer surge of FGM cases
- Sun Britons in Isis peril
- Nobel laureate 'I've been ruined by rush to judgment after my stupid remarks'

15th June

- British spies recalled after Snowden leaks
- £2m of food a month binned because of lorry stowaways
- Half of all Britons would refuse Syrian refugees entry to the UK

16th June

- Greece headed for state of emergency warn euro officials
- Bar to be raised on GCSE pass mark
- Call for airports chief to quit over his links to RBS

17th June

- Cameron sees off rebels in EU fight
- Savers blocked from unlocking 6m pension pots
- Increase in motorists caught by tougher alcohol limit

18th June

- You're more likely to be taken by aliens than win National Lottery jackpot
- Interest rates will rise soon, hints Bank economist
- Early end for wind farm subsidies



National News Headlines June 2015

19th June

- Muslim families must speak up on fanatics
- PM: UK Muslims helping jihadis
- Struggling council to cull 3,000 posts just to survive

20th June

- Bradford families 'crossed into Syria'
- Many over-65s 'shun public transport'
- Cameron is warned about EU 'reprisals'

21st June

- Lib Dems face new turmoil over 'push polling' claims
- Child poverty rise 'halts progress made since 1990s'
- High drama: One Red Devil saves another as chute fails

22nd June

- Don't make UK a second tier EU member
- Cameron savages welfare 'merry go round'
- Last-ditch talks to save Greece

23rd June

- Greece plans huge tax rises for rich in bid to stay in euro
- Now small firms back PM's bid to reform EU
- MPs should not take £7,000 rise, say 72% of voters

24th June

- Fire blockades as strike closes port
- Janner abused children in Parliament says MP
- Channel chaos as migrants exploit strike to get to Britain



National News Headlines June 2015

25th June

- Foreign crooks win the right to stay in Britain
- Ministers plot to stifle Freedom of Information
- More attacks against women prosecuted

26th June

- PM 'delighted' after EU reform talks
- Tesco's sales decline in UK slows
- SNP accused of trying to hide slump in oil forecast

27th June

- PM 'trying to scare us into EU yes vote'
- Most of Tunisia dead 'were British'
- Public urged to mark Armed Forces Day

28th June

- Sousse hotels left empty as tourists flee
- Fifteen Britons killed with toll set to rise in Tunisian beach massacre
- Terror on the beach

29th June

- IS fight 'struggle of our generation'
- Medical staff told to admit mistakes
- Greek crisis ignites as banks shut

30th June

- YTourists heading for Greece told: Take all the cash you need with you
- Injured Tunisia Britons flown home
- Cameron: We must crush the evil of IS extremism



National News Headlines July 2015

1st July

- Greece fails in late bid to secure bail-out deal
- Shame of our eight lonely deaths a day
- Biggest rise in living standards in 14 years

2nd July

- Consider Syria IS strikes, MPs urged
- RAF repatriate more UK Tunisia dead
- Calls for revamp in predicting noise from wind farms

3rd July

- Trucks move as strikers lift 4- day siege of Calais
- Migrant hid in camper van wardrobe
- UK air strikes in Syria 'are now the lesser of two evils'

4th July

- New tax crackdown to hit the non-doms
- Migrants try to storm Channel Tunnel
- Last UK bodies returning from Tunisia

5th July

- Number of young homeless is triple the official figure
- Osborne to ban cheap rents for middle-class council tenants
- £200bn: Britain's buy-to-let debt

6th July

- The prince charming keeping a brotherly eye on Charlotte
- British schools 'racially divided'
- EU shocked as Greek voters reject austerity demands



National News Headlines July 2015

7th July

- Greece tourists told: Bring your medicine
- MI5 chief: Minority of Muslims a threat to UK
- Stay open all hours: Chancellor's Sunday trading revolution

8th July

- Osborne to cheer Middle Britain with big tax cut
- Cold call charities told to clean up their act
- '5 days to save euro' as Greece gets new deadline for a deal

9th July

- Tax rises set to pull in extra £50billion
- Strikes cause train and Tube chaos
- 'Great day for defence' as Tories commit to Nato target

10th July

- Pandemonium! Tube and rail strike chaos
- Greece submits final plan for an EU bailout
- Charities kept using firm they knew preyed on dementia victims

11th July

- Cameron demands an opt-out on EU job laws
- Law to target aggressive fundraising
- India launches five UK satellites

12th July

- Cam told: Get deal or EU exit
- Ex-Chancellor urges PM to kill eurozone as Greece teeters on the brink
- UK 'fails its young' as gulf between generations grows



National News Headlines July 2015

13th July

- Women are real winners of Osborne's living wage
- Nearly half of female soldiers harassed
- Protest shuts Heathrow Airport runway

14th July

- Firms to disclose pay gap between the sexes
- Heathrow flights cancelled as protesters shut runway
- PM in bid to eliminate gender pay gap

15th July

- Fury as SNP foils bid to ease ban on English foxhunts
- One Calais migrant caught every 3 mins
- UK post boxes 'to be preserved'

16th July

- EU demands UK pays £ 1bn to rescue Greece
- Thousands who dial 999 are sent minicabs instead of ambulances
- Most poor children have parents in work

17th July

- The Voice and pop radio under threat in shake- up to shrink ' bloated' BBC
- Petrol at 92p a litre ...in Europe
- No answer to MH17 disaster one year on

18th July

- Tories break their promise to put a cap on care fees
- Palace defends Queen over Nazi salute
- Free parking to save the high street



National News Headlines July 2015

19th July

- British pilots in raids despite MPS voting against any military action
- Woman dies after tower block plunge
- Soaring sterling: great for holidays, less good for exports

20th July

- Fallon forced to face MPs over Syria strikes
- Sterling hits new high as euro plunges
- Why gentle winter could mean power blackouts

21st July

- Budget cuts warning as Sinn Fein meets PM
- Osborne orders extra £ 20bn Whitehall cuts
- Lewis joins F1 elite for Bianchi funeral

22nd July

- Bank could crack down on 'risky' buy-to-let mortgages
- Labour has rediscovered losing - Blair
- Bionic eye to cure blindness in old age

23rd July

- Blair: Nationalism is like the politics of cavemen
- Labour in turmoil as MPs turn on Corbyn
- Osbo bid for super wage tax

24th July

- Prescott lashes at Blair in Labour's panic over Corbyn
- T.Cameron vows to cut red tape for farmers
- Don't leave the EU, Obama tells UK



25th July

- UK music streaming passes 500m mark
- Firms losing £750,000 a day due to France chaos
- Europe's withering olive groves threaten a new oil crisis

26th July

- Cameron fast-tracks the EU referendum to June
- Militant Tendency 'infiltrating Labour to help Corbyn win'
- Cameron takes the fight to Isis

27th July

- Labour despair as Corbyn refuses to deny being Marxist
- Salmond: Second vote on independence 'inevitable'
- PM hires pro-EU business chiefs for referendum battle

28th July

- Bring in retirement age to shrink the bloated Lords, urge peers
- SNP chiefs face fracking ban call
- The pitiful desperation of those in Camp Calais

29th July

- 'Fighting fit' PM insists: I'll serve the full five years
- Osborne: Our links with EU should be based on free trade
- Economy is stronger than before crash

30th July

- Tax on sugar 'would cut diabetes'
- France: It's your fault for being soft on migrants
- Farage to No campaigners: Stop moaning

31st July

- Farage rallies Britons to step up EU exit fight
- British Gas doubles its profits ... but owners plan to axe 6,000 jobs
- Burnham vows to give Scottish Labour autonomy within weeks of victory



National News Headlines August 2015

1st August

- Bin Laden family 'on crash plane'
- RBS on alert after cyber attack shuts bank website
- Farmers' shock tactic as milk price crisis deepens 'We'll block the supermarkets'

2nd August

- Lords reform bid to fire all peers over 80
- 'Austerity' MPs in £1m Tea Room row
- Bishop attacks PM's 'hostile' language over asylum crisis

3rd August

- Macca: She was a lovely girl – she infected everyone with her spirit
- Plan to evict failed asylum seekers
- Cilla Black: 1943-2015

4th August

- Now French want migrants sent straight over to Kent
- Hospitals told to cut staff and let patients wait in cash crisis
- EU pays jobless migrants to come to Britain

5th August

- Osborne under fire for selling RBS shares at £1 billion loss
- Hauliers owe £4m in migrant fines
- London set for latest Tube strike

6th August

- Hedge funds 'pocketed £10m' after Treasury's RBS plans were leaked
- Time-stretched Londoners spend £1.4bn on takeaways
- Tories put squeeze on union cash



National News Headlines August 2015

7th August

- Wages are set to rise even faster than we thought, says Bank
- After all those hints from Carney... interest rate is held at 0.5% again
- Over-55s targeted in pension pot scams

8th August

- Clamping soars since end of tax disc
- Delayed passengers 'owed millions'
- Boiled water 'safe' in parasite alert

9th August

- Trainee GPs' pay cut puts patients at risk, say doctors
- Social care chief savages failing system for elderly
- Top Labour donors to pull cash if Corbyn wins

10th August

- Keep calm and carry on: Britons urged to defy VJ bomb plotters
- Tiger poachers are shot dead by police
- I'm victimised for being a woman, says Kids' Camila

11th August

- How UK gives £ 3bn aid to cruel regimes
- Supermarket in talks over milk prices
- Tories: We'll make Britain a nation of shopkeepers again

12th August

- Labour blocks 1,200 sham votes in surge for Corbyn
- More parents in court over truancy
- UK jobless total rises by 25,000



National News Headlines August 2015

13th August

- Teenage sisters held over bid to become jihadi brides
- China sparks fears of a currency war
- Iraq War families may sue Chilcot

14th August

- Call for pay rise to help cut the toll of migrants
- Greek holidays hit by refugee crisis
- Corbyn would cost families £2,400

15th August

- Queen to lead VJ Day 70th anniversary
- Cameron makes school academy pledge
- Isis leader exposed as a sex criminal who rapes his hostages

16th August

- Scottish Labour's new leader, 33, claims optimism of youth -
- Soaring student rents push college accommodation to brink of crisis
- Labelling dairy products as British 'will help farmers'

17th August

- Cameron 'will stage a bang the table row with Brussels'
- House prices dip – but not by much
- NHS locum paid £11,000 for one weekend's work

18th August

- PM plots new Europe tour to secure reform
- Call to punish GPs over antibiotics
- UK inflation rate rises to 0.1%



National News Headlines August 2015

19th August

- Fury at European Court as terrorists win human rights
- May strikes deal with French to tackle the Calais migrant crisis
- Coe named head of world athletics

20th August

- UK's five years of defeat over EU's meddling
- Nearly 110,000 illegal migrants reach the EU in just one month
- Germany set to take in another 800,000 asylum seekers this year

21st August

- Fans' floral farewell to Cilla on her final journey
- How dementia risk has fallen by a quarter in two decades
- NCorbyn pledges Labour apology on Iraq

22nd August

- IS deputy killed in US drone strike
- Labour 'robustly' verifying voters
- Chilcot to tell Iraq families: I feel your anguish

23rd August

- I will bring Ed Miliband into my team, says Burnham
- Seven killed as jet crashes at Sussex air display
- Corbyn wins economists' backing for radical plan

24th August

- Eight Cabinet ministers boost No to EU camp
- IDS: We can get 1m claimants off disability benefit and into work
- Train shooting prompts call for return of EU border checks



25th August

- Property boom will see prices rise by a third
- As migrant crisis goes on, EU chief pleads: Keep borders open
- Europe shares shrug off Chinese woes

26th August

- Eight million migrants now live in Britain
- Chilcot set to spread blame over Iraq War beyond Blair's inner circle
- Market turmoil in China may delay interest rate increase from Bank

27th August

- Even now Chilcot claims deadline is 'under control'
- Clare Short savages 'poor' work
- UK net migration hits record high

28th August

- 2,600 benefit claimants die within weeks of being ruled fit for work
- Second-quarter UK growth steady at 0.7%
- Sturgeon calls for BBC Scotland TV

29th August

- Ex-Sainsbury's boss slams Living Wage
- Cooper attacks Corbyn for 'dodgy economics that won't survive an election'
- HSBC customers' payments are held up

30th August

- Blair's final plea: Corbynmania is 'Alice in Wonderland' politics
- Shortage of teachers set to spark new schools crisis
- Terrorism suspects run up massive legal aid bill

31st August

- Propaganda fury as EU 'squanders' £ 1bn on TV shows
- Britons stranded as ferry workers stage new Calais blockade
- Scandal of weekend A&E doctors





By Paul G Bazeley for
Government World

June News Review

A terrorist attack on a beach in Sousse, Tunisia left 38 people dead, many of whom were British. The attack happened on Friday 26 June when a 23 year old Tunisian student, who is believed to have links with Islamic State, opened fire on tourists who were on the beach. It is believed the man then entered a hotel where he continued firing. The man was eventually shot dead by police. In a speech David Cameron said “we must stop the

Paul’s News Roundup

*Summary of the main news
and sports events over the
Summer period*

poisoning of young minds”
that lead to these attacks.

On the same day a van driver drove his vehicle into an area which contained flammable liquids, causing an explosion at the Air Products factory just outside Lyon, France. It also emerged the van driver, named as Yassin Sali, had beheaded his boss and left flags with Arabic inscriptions alongside the body. President Francois Hollande said the country “would work to eradicate the groups or individuals responsible for such acts”.

Also on the same day, a suicide attack on a Shia mosque in Kuwait killed at least 27 people, leaving many other injured. The attack happened during Friday prayers, when a young man entered the mosque setting off a bomb. A group affiliated with Islamic State has said it was behind the attack.

The number of migrants trying to enter the UK from Calais is increasing. Approximately 350 migrants were discovered hiding in lorries in just one morning. There have been some reports stating that some drivers have been attacked by migrants trying to hide on their lorries. The number of migrants camped in the Port of Calais is said to be around 3,000 with many more expected to arrive over the summer.

The US Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage was to be made a legal right across America. President Obama said “people should be treated equally, regardless of who they are and who they love” and stated the ruling was a “victory for America”.

Three sisters and their children who went missing from Bradford have crossed the border to Syria. The sisters and their children went missing after they did not return from a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. They are thought to have joined Islamic State fighter in Syria.

Chris Evans was named as the new host of Top Gear. The Radio 2 DJ, who is known for his love of cars, was announced as the new host of Top Gear after originally ruling himself out. It is still unclear who will join Evans in the new look Top Gear as Richard Hammond and James May announced they would be leaving after Jeremy Clarkson was sacked earlier this year. It is believed the new series will air next year.

Glastonbury festival opened its gate to thousands of people. Florence and the Machine were the replacement headline act on the Friday, after the Foo Fighters had to pull out due to Dave Grohl breaking his leg during a gig in Sweden. Kanye West headlined the Saturday, drawing a huge crowd despite many protesting his spot on the bill. The Who finished off the festival, headlining on the Sunday. Lionel Richie filled the legends spot on the Sunday afternoon.

June Sports Review

Andy Murray beat Kevin Anderson in the final at Queens Club. Murray claimed his fourth Queens Club title beating the South African in two straight sets 6-3, 6-4. Murray looked in good form going into

Wimbledon, however, the other three players in the 'Big Four', Djokovic (ranked 1st), Federer (ranked 2nd) and Nadal (ranked 7) will also want to make their mark at Wimbledon.

Jordan Speith won the US Open golf at Chambers Bay. Speith managed to take the victory with a birdie on the 18th on the final day after Dustin Johnson three putted the final hole. The error from Johnson meant Speith would not have to go into a play-off with Johnson. Jordan Speith is now the sixth person to win the first two majors of the year.

The England team have made it to the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup. The team scored two goals to beat hosts Canada 2-1 in their quarter final match, leading the team to the semi-finals for the first time in their history. England will

face reigning champions Japan, who beat Australia 1-0, on the 1st July.

Lewis Hamilton claimed first in the Canadian Grand Prix, while Nico Rosberg beat his teammate to finish first in Austria. Hamilton won the Canadian Grand Prix two seconds ahead of his teammate Rosberg in second. Valtteri Bottas managed to claim the third spot on the podium. In Austria Rosberg was to come out triumphant, winning with an eight second margin over Hamilton in second. Felipe Massa drove a good race and managed to claim third. The race was interrupted by a safety car as Fernando Alonso and Kimi Raikkonen crashed in the first lap. Raikkonen seemed to lose control of his car colliding with Alonso whose car then slid along the barrier, luckily both drivers were

unhurt. Hamilton still leads the driver standings on 169 points, ten points ahead of Nico Rosberg.

The England cricket team beat New Zealand three times out of five one day internationals, as well as beating them in the twenty20 game. England won the first one day international by 210 runs. Although New Zealand put the pressure on by winning the next two ODIs, England won the last two. The pressure is now on England to continue their revival when the Ashes begins in July.

July News Review

July was a month where the word austerity was used in spades, where the term 'Grexit' made its debut and where we were all reminded of the Drachma.

The Greek debt crisis, which for many seemed to spring out of nowhere, was everywhere in July. For a while it looked like a 'Grexit' (Greek exit from the EU) was on the cards, however, after a nervy wait for the Greek people and hours of talks in Brussels a third Eurozone bailout was

agreed. With the Eurozone offering €86bn in finance over a three year period, providing Greece imposes measures to save money. It seems, unsurprisingly, that an anti-austerity government was not the answer when the country defaults on a 1.5 billion euro loan repayment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The real losers here have been the Greek people, who we must feel for. Having had the banks closed, a limit imposed on how much each person could withdraw and then having to vote in a referendum, all the while wondering what is going to happen to their country. It is fair to say it has been a fairly humiliating period for them. At one point it looked like they may exit the EU and revive the Drachma which was replaced by the Euro in 2002. It could have been like an ageing rock band reforming for one

last tour, maybe Helena Paparizou (the 2005 Greek Eurovision winner) would have been the support act. I guess we'll never know.

The world was reunited with an almost forgotten news story thanks to the aptly named Reunion Island. The French Island located in the Indian Ocean, west of Madagascar has according to the Islands website 'welcoming beaches' so welcoming in fact that some debris from the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 decided to wash up onto one of them. In all seriousness and unfortunately, while it was at first speculation, experts confirmed they are positive it is from the missing plane. Although it could be some time until we find out what caused MH370 to disappear, at least pieces of the puzzle are starting to appear.

Much like the official 2010 World Cup football, things have been rather unpredictable at Fifa recently. After the indictments of nine Fifa officials, the world finally started to talk about corruption surrounding football. Something that was always whispered by many and spoken about by few, however, it seems to have finally caught up with them. We have now learnt that due to the recent scandal, Fifa are struggling to find new sponsors for the World Cup. Apparently Coke and McDonalds are concerned, no not about the growing numbers of child obesity and diabetes, but about how the scandal could reflect on their own brands. Fifa has said it is to hold a summit with its main backers to discuss the situation. If all goes wrong Fifa could lose its main sponsors. Never mind, maybe Putin has some

friends that would be willing to help out with sponsorship.

Solar Impulse, the solar powered plane that is trying to fly around the world, has had to stop in Hawaii. The aircraft has so far completed 8 legs of its journey, the last of which took it from Nagoya in Japan all the way to Hawaii (over 7,000km) its longest so far. Unfortunately, during the trip the plane suffered damage to the batteries and will stay in Hawaii while it is fixed. It is expected to take until April next year to fix the plane. Hopefully the plane will be able to complete its record breaking journey next year.

July Sports Review

It was a busy month of sport in July. There were probably many who believed that the football was over as the European cup is not until summer 2016 and the World Cup has been and gone, however they would be wrong as July saw the finals of the Women's World Cup. What is even more surprising is that England actually did well.

August News Review

August saw some tragic things occur; ISIS publicly beheaded a man, there were more murders in America, once again bringing into question the gun laws, and many migrants drowned trying to reach Europe.

ISIS beheads an 82 year old antiquities scholar in Palmyra. Khaled al-Assad had worked in Palmyra most of his life and had dedicated himself to understanding and preserving the ancient Roman city that sits in an Islamic State controlled area of Syria. It is thought that he was beheaded on a square in the city and his body then hung up on traffic lights before being hung on one of the ancient ruins he loved so dearly. It has been reported that he had been questioned

for around a month as the militants tried to find where the city's hidden treasure was located. It is also believed that Islamic State have been destroying many of the historic artifacts in the Unesco world heritage site as they promote idolatry. The extremists are claiming that the ancient city needs to be destroyed to eradicate paganism. However, it is also believed that ISIS are selling on many of the antiquities to subsidise their offensive. It seems rather two-sided really.

'The relics are awful things that must be destroyed.' 'Wait a second; this chap over here will buy them from us. 'In that case, I can probably live with that; I won't have to see them I suppose.'

Over in Greece the debt crisis still continued. Alexis

Tsipras eventually stepped down as the Greek prime minister, no real surprises there. This meant that the interim PM, Vassiliki Thanou-Christopilou, was sworn in as the country's first female PM. Her provisional government will ensure the austerity measures that were agreed with the bailout deal are put into effect. An election is scheduled for late September. Just what the Greeks want another poll to go to; it will be the third this year. I am sure they will be counting down the days for that.

Alison Parker and Adam Ward, a television presenter and cameraman, were murdered during a live interview in Virginia. Vester Lee Flanagan II is believed to have shot the two, which also injured Vicki Gardner, the interviewee. Flanagan, who worked at the station

beforehand before being fired due to arguments with colleagues, posted the videos online and sent a letter to the television broadcaster before committing suicide. The shootings are the latest in a long line of gun related incidents that have brought American gun law into question. Have they changed anything though? No, of course not. Owning a gun is an American right and makes no difference in the amount of gun-related crimes, so we're told by gun wielding Americans.

The migrant crisis continued to gain momentum in headlines in August. Many migrants died when two boats capsized while on the way to Europe. Italy has already rescued well over a thousand people off its coast this year. Also, a refrigeration lorry was found in Austria with 71 migrants dead in the back, it is believed they all suffocated to death, three men were arrested and the investigation continues. EU ministers have been summoned for a meeting in September to address the situation. It is believed well over 2,000

migrants have died, many of them having drowned in the Mediterranean. More to follow in the September news review.

In a lighter side of news, a woman on holiday in Germany discovered a message in a bottle. They found a letter inside, no not from the Police, but from the British marine biologist George Parker Bidder. The message was sent out with thousands in 1906 with the promise of a shilling for anyone who returned it with some questions, such as where and when it was found, filled in. George Parker Bidder was the president of the Marine Biological Association and they had sent bottles out to find out about currents in the deep sea. Apparently the Marine Biological Association

had many returned within months and had given up hope of finding anymore years ago. It is believed to be the oldest message in a bottle ever found

August Sports Review

As pretty much everyone knows, whether they like it or not, August is the month football returns. All the main leagues began on Saturday the 8 August, with the exception of the Championship which had a single game on the 7 August - the rest continuing over the weekend. The Premiership Champions Chelsea had a rocky start gaining only 4 points in 4 games, while Manchester City, who many believe to be Chelsea's closest rival, got a maximum 12 points

in 4 games. Man City even managed to beat the reigning Champions during the month, setting them in a good position early in the season. Notable performances came from Swansea, who are as exciting to watch as ever under Garry Monk; Leicester, who seem a new side since Claudio Ranieri replaced Nigel 'I can look after myself' Pearson; and newly promoted Bournemouth, who are playing some interesting football. Only time will tell how the season is going to pan out, it is fair to say the season cannot be judged in August which can be a crazy month.

There was a team that the people of England could cheer for in August and although many would not have believed it, it was in

cricket. That's right; England beat Australia in the Ashes. The main talking point was in the Test at Trent Bridge, which saw Stuart Broad amaze his home fans with an historic display. At one point the Nottingham born bowler was 8-15. While it should be noted that England won the series 3-2, so it was not an all out demolition, the emphatic performance at Trent Bridge will certainly be what is remembered. Australia captain Michael Clarke announced he would retire after the series; however there was no such talk in the England camp as they celebrated winning the urn.

Jason Day won the PGA championship posting a 20 under on the final day. World number one Jordan Speith came second with 17 under. The best Brit in the competition was Justin Rose who finished fourth on 14 under, while Rory McIlroy is still struggling to find his feet, pun intended, after his injury finishing in 17th place on 9 under.

Make things last to tackle climate change

Making things last instead of throwing them away could make a drastic difference in the fight against climate change, according to a world-leading new Scottish report.

Zero Waste Scotland's Carbon Impacts of the Circular Economy sets out how actions such as repairing, reusing and remanufacturing valuable products and materials has the potential to slash Scottish greenhouse gas emissions by up to 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) by 2050.

That's the equivalent of almost 275 million return car journeys between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The report is one of the first in the world to quantify the environmental benefits of moving to a more circular

economy which is where we keep products in use for as long as possible; and reused, refurbished or taken apart to make new products at the end of their initial life.

Speaking from the EU's Environment Council in Luxembourg, Scotland's Environment and Climate Change Minister Aileen McLeod said:

"Scotland is already recognised internationally as a leader in tackling climate change and the movement towards becoming a circular economy – and this report is further proof of how we are punching above our weight on the world stage.

"Scotland's target of a 42 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 is the most ambitious in the world, and we are on track to meet this ahead of schedule – although we must all do

more.

"The consumption of materials is responsible for over two thirds of Scotland's carbon emissions – and this report underlines the need to bring an end to our throwaway society.

"We can all take simple steps to do this, for example by reusing carrier bags, hiring clothes for a special event, or repairing broken toys instead of buying new ones. And we want to hear the public's ideas for how they can #MakeThingsLast and contribute towards a more circular economy for Scotland.

"At the same time, I will continue to strongly press the international community to look to Scotland and follow our example in striving for the highest global ambition to tackle climate change. This is essential if the new international treaty to be agreed in Paris in December is to stand a good chance of limiting global warming to

less than 2 degrees Celsius.

"We welcome the European Commission's consultation on a circular economy, and will also be publishing our own proposals for a more circular economy for Scotland later this year."

Iain Gulland, Chief Executive of Zero Waste Scotland, said:

"This report shows that a circular economy – where we move away from a 'take, make and dispose' society – could have a huge impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland.

"Making the link between the circular economy and climate change highlights just how important it is that we all get behind practical actions that will make a difference. We're asking people all over Scotland to give us their thoughts on how else we can help #MakeThingsLast.

"The report also shows the importance of thinking about the things we consume as a society, regardless of where they come from. Moving to a circular economy will reduce emissions here in Scotland and around the world too – whilst still growing our national economy."



Stone art embellishment figurines



welters® stone art embellishment figurines can be set within decorative panels or used individually.
admin@welters-worldwide.com

Long Eaton unveils town branding



your voice in the business community

Over 50 upholstery manufacturers and trade suppliers with a combined turnover of over £250 million pounds are located within Long Eaton. They employ in excess of 2,700 people and export to over 60 countries all over the world. Most of these companies produce very high quality handmade upholstery which is sold to leading department stores, top quality hotels and exclusive interior designers.

Long Eaton also hosts the “Long Point” show twice a year where trade buyers from all over the world visit manufacturers in the town.

There are more manufacturers of high quality upholstery in Long Eaton than any other town or City in the UK. To mark this unique feature the town has established the brand “UK Centre of Quality Upholstery Manufacture”.

The brand has been adopted by Long Eaton Chamber of Trade and Erewash Borough Council. A booklet has been produced to illustrate the importance of the upholstery industry to the town with a history spanning nearly 100 years.

Funding from the Council and a modest licence fee from many of the companies backing the scheme have enabled the Chamber and the Council to work together to promote the brand.

The Chamber and the Council believe that the brand will soon become a recognised symbol of Quality.

Flower displays and ‘Welcome to Long Eaton’ boards using the brand logo have been fitted on the platforms of the local Railway Station in partnership with East Midlands Trains, and the Council are planning suitable signage for roads in Long Eaton.

Retailers buying from any of the companies listed in the booklet can use a specially designed logo to advertise that they stock some of the best made upholstery in the country. Manufacturers and suppliers participating in the branding scheme will be able to use the logo on their products, letterheads, brochures, advertising and other marketing materials.

The launch of the ‘Brand’ will take place on Friday 17th July at Long Eaton Town Hall. The Mayor, Maggie Throup MP, local dignitaries and representatives from The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, The

British Furniture Manufacturers Association and Webs Training will be attending.

Michael Lucking, Chairman of the Long Eaton Chamber of Trade said “This brand is intended to make many more people aware of the specialist skills that are concentrated around our town and the wonderful upholstery manufactured here. Sofas and chairs made in Long Eaton can be found in Embassies and official residences all over the world, the most exclusive hotels, homes of the rich and famous and those people that appreciate the finer things in life. We hope this branding will help generate more business for the town and show how this industry makes a significant contribution to the prosperity of the town and the region.”

Chancellor extends successful Lloyds trading plan

The Chancellor has from Monday 1 June set out the next stage in the government's plan to return Lloyds Banking Group to private ownership and get taxpayers' money back, by extending the Lloyds trading plan for a further six months.



The Rt Hon George Osborne MP

This announcement follows the confirmation this morning that the government has sold a further 1% of Lloyds shares through the trading plan.

The latest sales mean

that the government has recovered almost £3.5 billion for the taxpayer from the trading plan, bringing the total recovered from Lloyds to over £10.5 billion, and the government's stake to below 19%.

The trading plan, launched in December 2014, was due to end no later than the 30 June 2015. The extension means that the plan will now end no later than 31 December 2015.

Shares have been sold through the trading plan for an average price of over 80p, well above the average 73.6p originally paid for the shares.

The Chancellor George Osborne said:

The trading plan has

been a huge success, with almost £3.5 billion raised for the taxpayer so far. This means we have now recovered over £10.5 billion in total, more than half of the taxpayers' money put into Lloyds, and we now own under 19% of the bank.

But we're determined to get on with the job of returning Lloyds to private ownership. That's why I'm extending the plan for six months so that we can make even more progress in returning money to the taxpayer and paying down the national debt.

The government remains committed to restoring Lloyds to private ownership in a way which gets the best value for the taxpayer.

Shares will only be sold through the trading plan where this objective is met, and will not be sold for less than the price paid for them,

which was 73.6p.

Further sales as a result of extending the trading plan will contribute towards meeting the commitment the Chancellor made at Budget to sell at least a further £9 billion of Lloyds shares in 2015-2016.

As part of its plan to return Lloyds to the private sector, the government will launch a share sale which will be open to retail investors in the next 12 months. Further details will be set out in due course.

Morgan Stanley will continue to act as broker on behalf of HM Treasury to execute the trading plan.

**LLOYDS
BANKING
GROUP**



Spring Watch on the A96

Teams of ecologists will start to gather vital information about the local environment in the coming months which will help inform the design work to deliver the new road.

Infrastructure Secretary, Keith Brown said:

“The Scottish Government has given a clear commitment to dual the A96, and a series of public exhibitions which concluded last week showing our latest plans, saw over 2,000 people take the opportunity to view our early assessment work for the route between the east of Nairn and Aberdeen. This underlines the keen interest local communities are showing for our plans and their wish to help shape the road’s future.

“We are pressing ahead with the programme and this week are getting ecological survey work under way on the section of road between Inverness and Nairn, including Nairn Bypass. This section of the road is at a more advanced stage, with a preferred route option exhibited last year and draft road orders expected to be published in 2016.

“The surveys this week will look at breeding birds and great crested newts in their natural habitat along the route, and over the coming months, further surveys for otters, red squirrel, pine marten, badgers, bats and wintering birds will also take place along with aquatic studies and other environmental and heritage surveys. Gathering this kind of information will give us

a clearer understanding of the local environment and allow us to help protect the wildlife and their habitats as we take forward essential work to upgrade the main artery between Inverness and Aberdeen.”

In addition to the surveys, Transport Scotland will also shortly be commencing detailed consultations with landowners as we further develop the preferred option for the Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn bypass) scheme.

Small teams of environmental specialists in high visibility jackets will be carrying out surveys along the route. The information gathered will help assess any potential impact on the environment that may be caused by the road and help develop measures to avoid or reduce these. Ecology surveys involve observing and recording

the different habitats and species, both protected and non-protected within the route corridor. The surveys will comprise visual inspections and sampling of the different habitats and species and will be carried out by ecological specialists.

As the Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme is further progressed, individuals, communities and businesses affected by the work will be kept fully informed and their vital feedback taken into account.



Red squirrel

New burial chamber installation brings high-end designs to cemetery users



The plots can be pre-purchased and an upgrade option is available to increase inscription space if required.



Cemetery systems specialists **welters**® have recently completed a large installation of burial chambers complete with a wide range of high-end memorial designs, offering cemetery users maximum choice across the development.

Previously the area was thought to be 'unusable' due to high water tables but the scheme has enabled the burial authority to reclaim the land and at the same time offer their service users a premium place of burial.

All the designs were created and produced at **welters**® UK based manufacturing facility.



White Galloway Heritage Herd

The White Galloway Heritage herd is a recent addition to **welters**[®] agricultural programmes. As part of their commitment to protecting native species and resources in the UK the White Galloway has a heritage that stretches back to the white wild cattle of ancient Britain.

welters[®] are members of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Compassion App launched to bring Wycombe communities together

A High Wycombe resident has developed a new App to support users to capture and share inspiring moments, helping uplift others through motivating posts and interactions. The Compassion App encourages people to go beyond self-interest and give of oneself for the good of the other.

The AnonCare App uses technology and age old values to create a shared responsibility for the well-being of others. Users are actively encouraged to empower and inspire others in poor health or isolation.

The system goes beyond the 'comment, share and like' features of traditional social networks, by introducing, 'wish well' and 'offer a prayer' buttons. The

innovation aims to network and support communities across Buckinghamshire and beyond.

The system takes inspiration from the Sikh faith, endorsing the acts of selfless service, love and compassion.

Jyotveer Singh Gill,
Founder of AnonCare said

"My faith informs me that we are all one large family. If one person is down, it is our joint responsibility to uplift them. The AnonCare App aims to enhance inter-dependency through inter-connectivity. It's really a social network for social action. I would encourage everyone, of all faiths and none, to download the App and start inspiring.

This is a fascinating development and I congratulate Mr. Singh Gill on all he has achieved so far. Harnessing people's empathy for one another is important in rebuilding social capital, that network of valuable relationships which makes society robust."

The 'AnonCare' App is available now to be downloaded for free from Google Play Store and iTunes.



It is the Tenth anniversary of the Dutch No vote to the EU Constitution – The EU has learned nothing since

UKIP leader Nigel Farage MEP said: "It is the 10th anniversary of the Dutch people categorically rejecting the EU constitution in 2005. It is fair to ask, has the EU learned



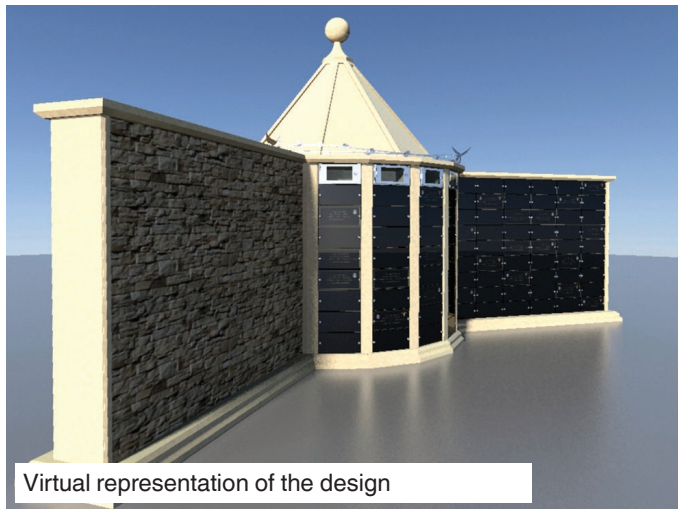
UKIP leader Nigel Farage MEP

anything in the meantime? Obviously not, for not only were the Dutch and French voters ignored, but the Irish No vote to Lisbon was also dismissed.

"By chance, the Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras last night accused the Eurozone's dominant players of incrementally bringing the 'complete abolition of democracy in Europe' and ushering in a technocratic monstrosity. How right he is.

Installation Innovation

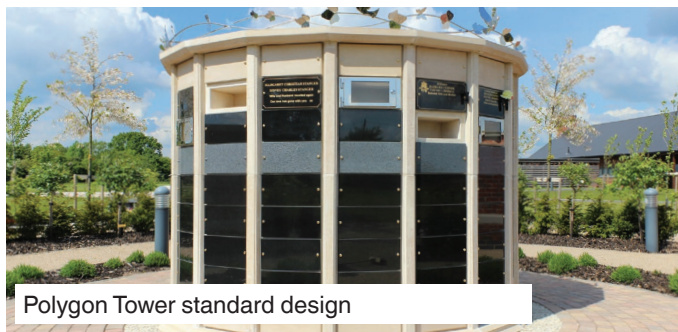
welters® Polygon Tower rotunda niche structure for cremated remains has been revised and now includes three walls which radiate out providing additional interment space within an attractively designed construction. With the addition of the conical roof component the tower will make an impressive and attractive feature for any cemetery/crematorium.



Virtual representation of the design



New design installed using in-house installation teams



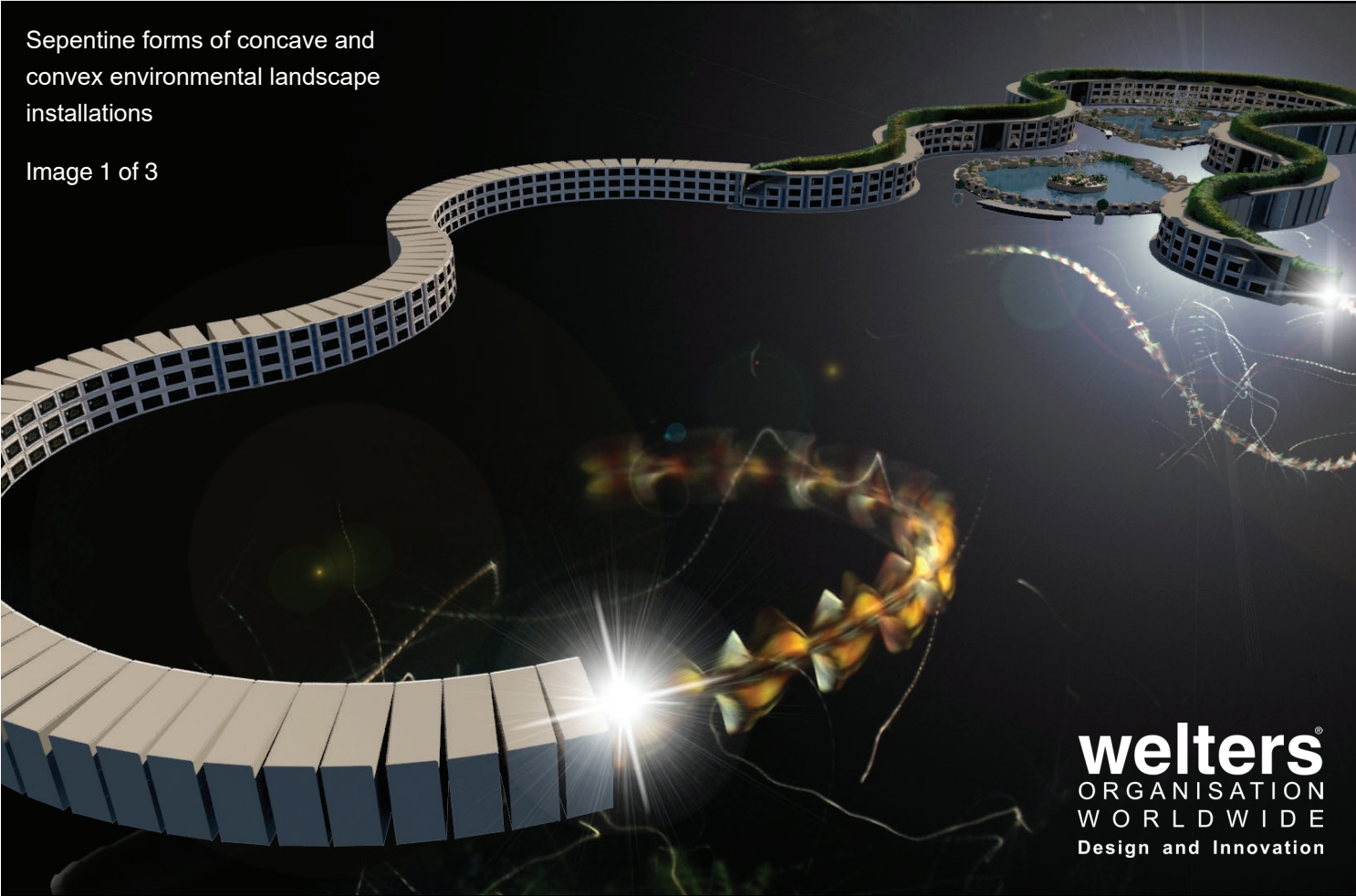
Polygon Tower standard design



The tower is constructed using multi-material elements

Serpentine forms of concave and convex environmental landscape installations

Image 1 of 3



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Design and Innovation

British scientist named one of Europe's top inventors

British scientist Luke Alphey has been named as one of Europe's top inventors by the 2015 European Inventor Award.

British scientist and entrepreneur Luke Alphey joined an elite group of innovators as he was named one of Europe's top inventors by the 2015 European Inventor Award for his ground-breaking work on the control of mosquitos.

Launched by the European Patent Office (EPO) in 2006, the European Inventor Award is one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, honouring individuals and teams whose pioneering work provides answers to some of the biggest challenges of our times.

Nominated in the highly competitive research category, Luke narrowly missed out on the top prize but was praised for his ground-breaking research into infectious diseases and mosquitoes.

Intellectual Property Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe said:

We are delighted that Luke's hard work was rewarded with this nomination. Now in its tenth year, the European Inventor Award showcases the importance of intellectual property (IP) in supporting innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

As part of the UK's long-term economic plan we will continue to deliver an IP

system that supports our innovators, creators and entrepreneurs. This will make sure that Luke, and others like him, maintain the UK's position as one of the best places in Europe to innovate and protect new ideas - and the best place to set up or expand a business.

Luke has successfully developed a patented method to control insect pests that damage crops and spread disease.

By programming an extra gene into mosquito DNA, the resulting mosquito larvae is unable to reach reproductive maturity. The invention has been trialed in countries around the world to control the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that spreads painful infectious diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever and chikungunya.

Prisoners may be given vote because of human rights climbdown, Tory adviser warns

Prisoners in Britain may be given the vote because of David Cameron's refusal to pull out of the European Convention on Human Rights, a leading QC and adviser to the Conservative Party has warned.

Jonathan Fisher QC, who has advised the Conservatives on a British Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act, said that Philip Hammond, the Foreign Secretary, confirming that pulling out of the convention is not "on the table" means that when "push comes to shove" the party will have to give way to Strasbourg judges on prisoner voting.

In response, Diane James MEP, UKIP's Justice and Home Affairs spokeswoman said: "The UKIP position is there should be a blanket ban of votes for prisoners. The problem is, if we continue to be members of the EU and as a consequence, signed up to the ECHR, I have little doubt 'votes for prisoners' will be forced upon us.

A boost for bees: £900 million Countryside Stewardship scheme

Over the next five years the new Countryside Stewardship scheme will offer grants to help improve our environment and countryside – with £85 million set aside to support projects in 2016, including those that improve pollen and nectar sources.



The Right Honourable Elizabeth Truss. Photo: Policy Exchange

Bees and pollinators are one of four main priorities for the scheme, which is being run on a competitive basis for the first time this

year.

Applications will be ranked and money only awarded to those who will make the biggest improvements in their local area. Extra points will be given to agreements working to support bees and pollinators and other farm wildlife.

Work could include year-round food, shelter and nesting places that wild pollinators, birds and other farm wildlife need to survive and thrive; sowing nectar flower and winter bird food mixes; or increasing flower resources on grassland and on field margins and managing hedgerows.

Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss said:

This is the first ever countryside stewardship scheme that specifically

combines help for bees and pollinators as well as wildlife, woodland and rivers.

This will mean more margins and meadows with colourful wildflowers in our countryside. Productive farming goes hand in hand with improving the environment.

Evidence suggests there can be meaningful benefits for farm wildlife if the right combination of environmentally-friendly farming practices are adopted on just 3 per cent or more of land.

Countryside Stewardship grants will help pay for thousands of individual agreements across the country with a special focus on four priorities:

Wildlife and nature:

restoring habitats, providing food and nesting places for birds, insects and other animals, creating areas for rare flowering plants and managing hedges

Pollinators: providing pollen and nectar sources and nesting places and ensuring the right resources for wild pollinators where they are most needed

Woodland: funding the creation of new woodland and supporting the management of existing woodlands

Water/flooding: making water cleaner and reducing risk of flooding by encouraging changes to farming practice (such as crop management), improving farm infrastructure and establishing woodland

Building on the existing agri-environment or woodland grant schemes, it will offer a new competitive approach, ensuring that funding goes to those schemes that will make the biggest possible difference to the local environment.

Local priorities have been established across the country, meaning that this funding will be directly targeted to actions that will bring the biggest environmental benefit for those areas.

Thousands of patients given the wrong drugs

Thousands of patients across Scotland have been prescribed the wrong drugs over the last five years in hospitals and community pharmacies, research by the Scottish Conservatives has shown.



Jackson Carlaw MP by Scottish Parliament

Figures obtained through Freedom of Information have revealed there have been 3331 incidents since 2010 of people being given the wrong medication.

Health boards weren't able

to say what the medical impact of these mistakes were, but compensation pay-outs have hit nearly £200,000 in that time.

In addition, the data showed there are a further 10 live claims against the NHS for mistaken prescriptions.

Included in the figures are instances of patients being wrongly given insulin, steroids, warfarin and even heroin substitute methadone.

The most incidents occurred in Scotland's largest health board, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, while health boards in Dumfries and Galloway, Grampian and the Highlands also featured prominently.

Scottish Conservative

health spokesman Jackson Carlaw said:

"While so much of the focus recently has been on the cost of prescriptions, we must also recognise there's an issue with errors in prescribing.

"I appreciate many of these will have resulted in no harm to the patient.

"But to see thousands of such incidents occurring in the last five years threatens the confidence patients and their relatives have in the NHS.

"There is also the risk of serious harm occurring to the most vulnerable people.

"And with the free prescriptions bill ever rising, health boards can hardly afford the potentially hefty compensation bills associated with mistaken prescriptions."

If Cameron was serious about safeguarding the legacy of Magna Carta he wouldn't be using its anniversary to attack fundamental rights - Lord Falconer

Lord Falconer, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary, responding to David Cameron's speech on the anniversary of Magna Carta, said:

"David Cameron claims he is safeguarding the legacy of Magna Carta but his own plans would scrap people's basic rights and threaten the UK's standing in the world.

"If the Prime Minister was serious about safeguarding the legacy of Magna Carta he wouldn't be using its anniversary to attack fundamental rights.

"David Cameron should drop any plans to repeal the Human Rights Act and to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights immediately."

SNP's finance plans on the rocks as another oil slump forecast

Scotland's oil revenues will fall significantly over coming decades, new projections for the sector have suggested.



Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Murdo Fraser

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said just £2 billion would be raised between 2020 and 2040 from the North Sea.

That's compared to the £37 billion previously estimated, with the report adding that

over the next five years only £3.4 billion would be generated in tax receipts.

It comes on the same day the SNP submitted its plans for full fiscal autonomy, a move that would see Scotland's finances rely heavily on oil.

It is also the latest in a series of alarming reports showing the decline in viability of the North Sea.

This morning, a report said two-thirds of companies had scaled back projects as a result of the drop in oil price.

The Scottish Conservatives have demanded the SNP explains how public services would be funded when an autonomous economy – so reliant on oil

revenues – was faced with a fresh black hole of billions of pounds.

Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Murdo Fraser said:

“Above all, this is worrying news for an industry which makes a key contribution to the economies of Scotland and the UK.

“It also shows us that – were Scotland an independent country and depending on these revenues for the funding of public services – we'd be facing a very grim future indeed.

“The Scottish Government must now explain why it decided to pin all its separation hopes on oil, and what exactly it would have done to cope with these changes.

“And just because there was a No vote in

September, this issue hasn't gone away for the SNP – all of these problems would still rear their head under full fiscal autonomy.

“Yet still we have no explanation whatsoever on how the SNP would balance the books if a fiscally autonomous Scotland – which it wants to see – was so exposed to this decline in revenue.

“On a practical level, we also need both the UK and Scottish Governments to do everything they can to give this vital sector the help it needs to maximise potential.”



Deep sea Delta oil drilling rig in the North Sea
Photo: Erik Christensen

Landmark Bill paves the way for first Welsh taxes in 800 years

With the devolution of two new Welsh taxes from April 2018, Wales is establishing its own devolved tax arrangements for the first time.

The Tax Collection and Management (Wales) Bill will set in law arrangements to enable the collection and management of devolved taxes, providing revenue that is essential to help fund our vital public services.

The Bill, will be launched by the Finance Minister during a visit to the Royal Mint in Llantrisant, will establish the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) and will confer powers and duties to enable it to collect and manage devolved taxes.

The Bill places duties on taxpayers to pay

penalties and interest in certain circumstances and provides the right to request internal reviews of WRA decisions and to appeal to the First Tier Tribunal. It will also provide for a Charter of Standards and Values – a Taxpayers’ Charter – to be put in place, laid before the Assembly and reported on annually.

The WRA will have comparable powers to other UK tax authorities so that its functions can be undertaken consistently and comprehensively. This includes powers to help encourage and enforce tax compliance, including powers to undertake civil investigation and enforcement. It also includes arrangements to enable criminal investigation and

enforcement powers to be conferred on WRA officials.

Finance Minister said:

“The introduction of the Bill marks a significant new chapter in Welsh devolution. For the first time in almost 800 years, we will be able to develop taxes that meet Welsh needs and priorities and will be responsible for generating some of our own revenue.

“This Bill is the first of three pieces of legislation which will establish devolved taxes in Wales. This Bill will put in place tax collection and management arrangements in readiness for our future Welsh taxes - Land Transaction Tax (LTT) and Landfill Disposals Tax (LDT).

“We have engaged widely and listened to the views and concerns of stakeholders and

business. Businesses and taxpayers deserve a system of taxation that is fundamentally simple and transparent. The tax arrangements we are putting in place provide consistency and minimise the burden on taxpayers whilst enabling tax compliance.

“Our tax arrangements for Wales are based on four clear principles – fairness; simplicity; supporting jobs and growth; and stability and certainty. At its core the Bill represents our commitment to a self-confident and prosperous Wales.”

The Bill also gives Welsh Ministers powers to prescribe the bodies to whom the WRA may delegate its functions. Last month, the Finance Minister announced the organisations who will work with the WRA to collect and manage taxes in Wales.

The legislation is expected to be introduced into the National Assembly this week and the Minister will deliver an Oral Statement in relation to the Bill during Plenary in the Senedd tomorrow.

Minister leads summit to aid restoration of opencast sites



Carl Sargeant Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister for Natural Resources

The Minister has brought together local planning authorities, opencast site operators, the Coal Authority and community groups representing those living near unrestored sites, for the opencast coal summit. Its focus is to consider what actions can be taken to overcome the challenges in restoring sites when opencast coal operations come to an end.

Speaking ahead of the summit Carl Sargeant said:

“I am concerned about the significant and lasting impacts of the failure to restore on communities living in close proximity to opencast sites. A number of sites have been left with insufficient money to enable satisfactory final restoration, as a result of questionable land transfer transactions and the legacy of the privatisation of the coal industry in the mid 1990s.

“In several cases there are insufficient monies in the bonds attached to the sites to cover restoration in the event of default by the operator.

The object is to begin the debate on possible

solutions. Those present at the summit will set out their perspective on the way to secure more effective restoration of opencast sites for the benefit of the communities and environment of Wales.”

Carl Sargeant added that he has written to the UK Government about this issue and will be having further discussions with them following the Summit.

“I will ensure that the Welsh Government is part of discussions at the UK level to try and resolve these issues. I want to secure the best and most applicable solution for Wales – which ultimately, means full restoration of all operating sites,” he added.

Action is needed to tackle Dartford Crossing charging chaos

UKIP Transport spokesman Jill Seymour is calling for urgent action to untangle the ‘shambolic’ road charging system at London’s Dartford Crossing.

Six months after toll booths were removed and replaced with a new ‘Dart Charge’ number plate recognition system, complaints are mounting from drivers.

Some are being charged in error, and others are facing fines because they claim not to have seen, or understood, road signs explaining the new system.

Mrs Seymour said: “The Dartford Crossing toll charge is not only wrong as a matter of principle, but it has now come to light that hundreds of people daily are being caught not paying.

English votes for English laws

The UK Government needs to more clearly define which bills would apply to Scotland in implementing English votes for English laws (EVEL), according to the First Minister.



Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon

Writing to Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the proposals as they stand are “unacceptable”, and asked for full engagement with the Scottish Government

as there is a “clear Scottish interest” in the plans.

Out of 20 bills passed during the 2010-2015 UK Parliament, recently listed by the UK Government in answering a parliamentary question as not applying to Scotland, Ms Sturgeon argued that 13 of those were relevant to Scotland.

The letter highlights concerns about the narrowness of the assessment of what relates exclusively to England, with the decision limited to whether the bill legally extends to Scotland, rather than taking into account the wider financial and policy implications.

It also calls for a meeting with Mr Mundell and Chris Grayling, Leader of the House of Commons, to discuss the proposals.

Writing to Mr Mundell, Ms Sturgeon said:

“There is a clear Scottish interest in EVEL because of the impact it will have, and the proposals, as they currently stand, are unacceptable.

“The detail of the certification procedure for which legislation will be covered will be crucial. This is a technical assessment where the determining factor is whether any provision of a bill legally extends to Scotland.

“There is no mention of factoring into that decision any wider considerations of bills that do not legally extend to Scotland, but could have an impact because, for example, of Barnett consequentials arising from funding changes in England and Wales associated with the

policy implemented by that bill.

“I also have concerns about how the Speaker makes his assessment; where he gets advice from, whether the UK Government has any influence on his assessment and, if so, whether the Scottish Government or the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament should also have a role.

“Of the 20 bills listed by the UK Government as not extending to Scotland, no fewer than 13 of them did. Several of these Bills covered important areas such as charities, criminal justice and anti-slavery measures and had significant impacts on Scotland, over and above the Barnett implications that might flow from legislation.

“No doubt the UK Government will be considering the assessment when preparing your legislation but the Scottish Government has a direct interest in how the UK Government makes a judgement as to whether it considers EVEL applies.”



The Best of British Design and Manufacturing

welters® are pleased to announce the introduction of their new multi-material mausolea range.

This 'high end' design range is available at affordable prices with bespoke options available, to meet customer needs.

The range, which is integral to the **welters®** Heritage funeral experience, is designed to embrace a variety of multi-material specifications.

The design, together with the optional variables, enables a unique aesthetic and architectural synchronicity which allows the product to blend with new or historic landscapes.



CEO Keith Welters in front of the mausoleum



FIRA at the House of Lords

More than 200 people from all sectors of the UK's furniture industry attended FIRA's annual event at the House of Lords on Friday 22 June, hosted by Lord Hoyle of Warrington.



CEO Keith Welters, and Jackie Bazeley (MD BFM), Richard W J Ranklin (Association Manager, Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishings (AMUSF)) with his wife Irene at FIRAs annual event



The FIRA (The Furniture Industry Research Association) event was attended by members from across the country and it was noted that despite the economic difficulties faced by the industry over recent years, membership numbers had actually increased, which is testament to the service that the organisation provides. As the organisation grows, so too does it's ability to provide more services to its members.

FIRA (as part of TRADA) was bought by the Exova group earlier this year. It appears to be "business as normal" though. FIRA was first established in the 1950's and provide its members with:

'a wide range of independent expert services that are not only dedicated to the global furniture supply chain, but also to furniture consumers, and continues safeguarding the industry through managing the Association's membership activity.'

UKIP Housing Spokesman responds to the ONS' latest House Price Index

UKIP Housing Spokesman Andrew Charalambous responding to the ONS' latest House Price Index: "Clearly, England's house price rises are being driven by the South East and East of the country. The widening gap between house prices by region is a genuine reflection of a two speed England and of the widening gap between rich and poor.

"Far from building a 'Big Society' Cameron's policies are leading to the social cleansing of communities and families who have lived in the South East and other parts of the UK now being forced to move out because they cannot afford to live there anymore.

"Only UKIP has a housing policy based on choice not chance which will strengthen not beak up communities. For us housing is not just a matter of shelter but a tool for achieving fairness and social justice."

Parisian cycling signs should be replicated in the UK's towns and cities

UK cities should follow Paris's lead in allowing cyclists to travel through red lights if the way is clear on agreed routes, says the Green Party.

Signs, erected this summer, with an upside down triangle, an arrow and a picture of a bicycle, indicate which direction cyclists can travel without stopping at a red light and it is hoped the new rules could reduce "delays and improve safety for cyclists" if introduced in the UK.

Paris's Green deputy mayor, Christophe Najdoski revealed the plans in April in a bid to also speed up cycling journey times across the French capital.

The Green Party's local transport spokesperson,

Caroline Russell welcomed the announcement and sees it as an initiative that could be "implemented quickly" in the UK as an interim measure to encourage cycling.



Cllr Caroline Russell

Cllr Russell said:

"It's great to see Paris so clearly ambitious to get more people travelling by bike. The new rules for cyclists, allowing people to go straight ahead at T junctions or turn right (left in

UK) on a red light, if the way is clear and no pedestrians are crossing, will make Paris more bike-friendly.

"This is not an alternative to redesigning our streets with safe cycle lanes, but it's a great interim measure that can be implemented quickly and so long as everyone is considerate of others, especially those walking, it could make a real difference.

"British cities should follow suit. There are huge benefits to public health from encouraging more journeys by bike. Not only does this reduce congestion, road danger, physical inactivity and air pollution but it also makes our cities better places to live and work."

At this rate, Universal Credit will take 430 years to be rolled out - Stephen Timms

Stephen Timms MP, Labour's Acting Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, responding to the latest Universal Credit statistics, said:

"Four years after Universal Credit was launched there are just 89,357 people claiming the new benefit. At the glacial rate the government are rolling out Universal Credit, it will take 430 years to complete the programme.

"Universal Credit is running years late. Iain Duncan Smith should call in the National Audit Office to urgently review its management, with a view to deliver value for money for taxpayers and to get a grip of the endless delays to this £12.8 billion programme."

Greens slam government over 'anti-democratic' fracking move

The Green Party has accused government ministers of 'doing the dirty work of the shale gas industry' after it was announced that the government will have the power to intervene on fracking applications if local authorities fail to approve or reject them within 16 weeks.

After the announcement, the communities secretary Greg Clark came under fire from campaigning organisations, including the Greens, who believe the change will ignore environmental concerns.

Caroline Lucas MP said:

"This is a shockingly anti-democratic and environmentally reckless move. Yet again, ministers are doing the dirty work of the shale gas industry and

taking away the rights of local people to say no to fracking, whilst making contemptible claims that fracking is somehow compatible with tackling climate change."

Cllr Andrew Cooper, the Green Party's energy spokesperson, said:

"This is a disgraceful attempt to undermine local democracy in the interests of the fossil fuel industry and to ignore the concerns of residents. It is clear that government is facing serious opposition from communities to this dirty and dangerous fracking experiment.

"The Green Party stands shoulder to shoulder with local communities across the country in their campaigns against shale gas extraction."

Time is up for Right to Buy says Green Party

Revelations that Right to Buy has caused almost 40 per cent of former council homes to be sold on the cheap should lead to the scheme's end according to the Green Party.



The Green Party's housing spokesperson, Tom Chance

Inside Housing magazine^[1] revealed on Friday (14 August) that information released under the Freedom of Information Act by 91 councils in England show "they have sold a total of 127,763 leasehold properties, with

47,994 leaseholders living at another address" giving a "strong indication" the home is being "sub-let".

The Green Party's housing spokesperson, Tom Chance said:

"We need more social housing, not less, and for them to be treated as a place to live rather than as an investment.

"There are better ways to give tenants a share of a home's value without losing it to buy-to-let landlords. The government should phase out Right to Buy and explore alternatives like mutual home ownership, which gives people a chance to buy up a stake in their home and sell it back when they move out.

"We need to be providing another 100,000 social rented homes a year so that people on low incomes have some security and affordability."

Buzzard shooting in the Scottish Borders

Commenting on the shooting of a buzzard in the Borders, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Aileen McLeod said:

“The illegal persecution of birds of prey is always unacceptable, but this case - with the pain and suffering caused to the buzzard - is particularly abhorrent. Anyone with information on this incident should contact the relevant authorities as soon as possible.

“I am resolute in my determination to do all I can to put a stop to crimes such as this, with the Scottish Government working with law enforcement and others through the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime in Scotland (PAWS). I expect all right-minded people involved in the countryside,

including with shooting, to support our efforts.

“The Scottish Government has already put in place new and strengthened measures to crack down on wildlife crime, including vicarious liability prosecutions and general licence restrictions, for example. But let me be absolutely clear – I will consider taking further action if necessary and the licencing of shooting businesses in Scotland remains an option.”



Green Party condemns US government over Shell Arctic drilling

The Green Party has condemned the US government for its ‘disappointing’ approach to climate change, after Shell was given the final permit for its Arctic drilling operation.



Cllr Andrew Cooper,

Labelling the project ‘environmentally destructive,’ the Green Party called for global action to limit the extraction of fossil fuels.

Cllr Andrew Cooper, the Green Party’s Energy

spokesperson, said:

“It is incredibly disappointing to see Shell being given the green light for this risky and environmentally destructive endeavour at a time when governments should be doing all they can to curb the use and extraction of fossil fuels.

“We know that if we are to prevent catastrophic global warming, 75% of known fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground; we also know that Shell’s drilling operation carries a 75% risk of a major oil spill.

“It is especially disheartening to see this project given the go-ahead so soon after President Obama appeared to be making positive steps towards tackling climate change. It’s imperative that governments around the world recognise the need for decisive action on climate change, put an end to subsidies for fossil fuels and instead invest in renewable energy.”

All public sector employees who work directly with the public to have fluent English

- new legislation to make fluent English a requirement for all public sector staff working in customer-facing roles
- public sector organisations will be required to ensure staff can speak at least school leaver levels of English
- the requirement will be brought in as part of the new Immigration Bill

New legislation requiring every public sector worker employed in a public-facing role to speak fluent English will be introduced in September, Cabinet Office Minister Matt Hancock has confirmed.

This will mean that all public sector organisations must ensure that staff can

communicate effectively with the public, to what is expected to be at least 'level 2' – equivalent to a C or above at GCSE.

This requirement would increase depending on the nature of the role and profession. Doctors, for example, are already required to have a much higher level of English.

Organisations including the NHS, armed forces and state-funded schools will all be bound by a new code of practice which will be produced following a consultation in the autumn. The legislation and code of practice will apply to both existing and new employees working in public-facing roles.

Minister for the Cabinet

Office Matt Hancock said:



Minister for the Cabinet Office Matt Hancock

We are controlling immigration for the benefit of all hard-working people. That includes making sure that foreign nationals employed in customer-facing public sector roles are able to speak a high standard of English.

We have already introduced tough new language requirements

for migrants, now we will introduce new legislation in the forthcoming Immigration Bill to deliver the commitment made by the Prime Minister to go further.

The government has already legislated to allow some health regulators to ask for evidence of English language competence from applicants trained in the EU who apply for registration with them, to work as healthcare professionals in the UK.

Primary legislation will be passed to extend this kind of language control to every public sector worker in a customer facing role. This will include police officers, social workers, teaching staff and assistants, Jobcentre Plus workers and local government employees.

This will be the first time there has been a co-ordinated approach to enforcing fluent English across the public sector and will create a consistent experience for taxpayers, while promoting integration and British values in the United Kingdom.

Chief Medical Officer calls on young people to have MenACWY vaccine

This is in response to an increasing number of cases of meningococcal group W disease in the UK.

Based on advice from the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) – the national body which advises governments about vaccination – the vaccine will replace the existing meningitis C vaccine, which is given to teenagers and people starting university.

Dr Hussey said:

“This vaccine offers protection against meningococcal disease, which is rare, but life-threatening. We are particularly concerned about the rapid increase in meningococcal disease caused by the W strain,

which is covered by this vaccine.

“Between the ages of 13-18 you are at increased risk of getting meningococcal disease, so it is really important to be vaccinated to protect yourself.

“Even if you have recently received the MenC vaccine it is important to get the MenACWY vaccine as it offers protection against the W, A and Y strains as well as meningococcal C disease.”

From August 3rd, all students under 25 who are attending university for the first time this autumn will be eligible to receive the MenACWY vaccine. There will also be a catch-up

programme for all 13 to 18-year-olds.

The catch-up programme will begin with all young people with a date of birth between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997 who will now be offered the vaccine by their GP. Younger people will be invited to have the vaccine either in school or by their GP over the next two years.

Dr Hussey said:

“If you are about to go to university for the first time you should get the vaccine at least two weeks before you go. Contact your GP surgery to organise the vaccination as soon as possible.”

The Manchester Furniture Show

The Manchester Furniture Show is one of the UK's largest furniture shows, presenting a large selection of domestic furniture.

The organisers of the Manchester Show also run the main UK show at the NEC; The January Furniture Show.

Keith Welters, CEO of Welters Organisation Worldwide said:

“As a member of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, I maintain a keen interest in the furniture industry and this event provides an opportunity to see the latest innovations first hand”



Keith Welters: Manchester Furniture Show

Consumer Rights Act and Alternative Dispute Resolution



By Paul G Bazeley for Government World

On the 26th March 2015 the Consumer Rights Act was given Royal Assent. It will be put into effect as of the 1st October 2015, giving retailers a six month period to administer any changes they may require. The changes will prescribe the reasons why consumers can return goods.

Under the new act a consumer will have 30 days to reject goods sold to them if the item does not match the description or is faulty. A retailer manufacturer will then have a 'one shot' repair or replacement opportunity to fix the problem, or the retailer/manufacturer can offer an alternative remedy

if the other options are not possible. For example; if a person buys a table and the leg breaks due to a malfunction in the product, and not wear and tear, the retailer would then have to offer to repair or replace the table. If the table were to then break again the retailer would have used the 'one shot' and then have to refund the customer or replace the product depending on what is agreed between the two.

There is no change in the law in terms of the goods sold must be of satisfactory quality. If the goods are not deemed fit for purpose, safe or differs in appearance or finish from what was originally thought the customer has the right to return. However, the new act is more specific. Not only do consumers have the 30 day period, they can also return an item within a six year

window providing they can prove it is down to the item being faulty and not general wear and tear. Retailers/manufacturers must refund the consumer within 14 days of a refund being agreed and must also bear the cost of an item being returned. If an item is to be collected the consumer must make the product available for collection on the agreed date. Another point to make is that by agreeing to a repair or a replacement the consumers 30 day right to reject is not lost, the 30 days is merely paused while a repair is carried out and then proceeds after the product is fixed or replaced.

With regards to installation contracts there will be a breach in contract if the product is installed incorrectly or without reasonable skill or care. If this breach in contract occurs the consumer has the same rights as above in the sense that the retailer/manufacturer must then repair or replace the

problem. If this is not possible or the repair or replacement has not rectified the problem the consumer will then have the right to a price reduction and possibly the right to reject (although this would probably be rare when speaking in terms of installation).

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a variety of ways that can settle disputes between traders and the consumer without having to go to court. ADR will affect almost all businesses selling directly to consumers. The government wants to encourage ADR development by having quality ADR which is more easily accessible. There are already ADR schemes in the financial services, telecoms and energy sectors. There are also other businesses outside of these sectors which are members of ADR schemes, although, it is now believed that number will greatly increase as it should make retailers/manufacturers look more trustworthy.

The most common types of ADR are mediation and arbitration. In mediation, an independent third party will help the disputing parties to come to a mutually acceptable outcome. Arbitration involves an independent third party who considers the facts and takes a decision that is often binding on one or both parties.

MoOD Brussels 2015



Keith Welters in Brussels

Keith Welters has a long and distinguished history in furniture design and manufacture and has a keen interest in keeping up-to-date with the latest developments from the furniture and textile industries.

In our next edition, Keith will be reporting on his experiences and findings at MoOD Brussels.

Bluefin tuna spotted off South West coast

Sightings of bluefin tuna off the English South West coast have been reported to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).



Nick Wright, South West Marine Area Manager

On

Monday a vessel escorting tourists around Mounts Bay, Penzance reported what it thought to be a group of bluefin tuna. Fishermen in the area have also spotted the shoal.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna is a large migratory fish found in the western and eastern Atlantic and the

Mediterranean Sea. The UK has no quota for bluefin tuna and UK fishing vessels must not target the species.

If bluefin tuna are caught accidentally they must be returned to the sea. If this is not possible then the fish may be landed but must not be sold.

Nick Wright, South West Marine Area Manager said:

“Sightings such as these are unusual although we have never had any reports of illegal activity. We will continue to monitor the situation and sightings can be reported to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas which is an inter-governmental fishery organisation responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas. The important thing to note is that the species should not be targeted as there is no UK quota.”

Furniture design and innovation

The Welters name has been long been synonymous with quality furniture beginning with F D Welters Ltd of Wycombe in 1932, and that tradition continues today with welters organisation worldwide as exponents of progressive design.

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.

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ORGANISATION
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Design and Innovation



SNP's hypocrisy on Longannet closure 'shameless'

Scotland's energy minister has been criticised for his "hypocrisy" over why the Longannet power station in Fife is set to close.



Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Murdo Fraser

Speaking on BBC Good Morning Scotland, Fergus Ewing – despite claiming he didn't want to apportion blame – went on to say the UK Government's transmission charges were the reason for the closure.

However, evidence has shown that the SNP's alternative "postage stamp" system would actually cost an additional £7 billion for energy bill payers across the country, plunging thousands more into fuel poverty.

The Scottish Conservatives have also pointed out that transmission charges are high because Scotland has an over-capacity of electricity generation – 11GW against a peak demand of 5.4GW.

Much of this over-capacity has been caused by a number of windfarms coming onto the grid, an initiative directly encouraged by the SNP.

Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Murdo Fraser said:

"It was utterly predictable that the SNP would rush to blame Westminster for the closure of a Scottish power station.

"But the fact is the high transmission costs the Scottish Government are citing are partly driven by its own obsession for expensive and unreliable wind energy.

"And if it was to pursue its 'postage stamp' system, experts have already said this would add an extra £7 billion onto the bills of energy customers.

"What would that do for fuel poverty?"

"It's not surprising energy companies would want a massive cash transfer from consumers to its profits sheet, but it's astonishing to see the SNP shamelessly support that."



welters® are leading the way in developing new and innovative products for the bereaved and their range of 'orb' memorial niche systems provide a unique choice for interment and commemoration.

Keith Welters MD said:

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