

Winter 2014/15 Edition



Government *WORLD*™

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National News Headlines December 2014

7th December

- Police accused of bid to shut down MoS investigation of Ukip
- Education chief fights back in battle with Gove over schools
- Murdoch sues Scotland Yard for 'hacking' journalists' emails

8th December

- Millions set to buy up 4% 'pensioner bonds'
- Archbishop: State must step in to feed families
- 300,000 families would struggle if interest rate hits 2.5%, Bank warns

9th December

- Myth of importance of EU trade blown apart
- City bosses' pay up 50% to average £2.8million
- Social care crisis warning as complaints rise sharply

10th December

- Demands for a probe into role of British spies
- Disruption as storm hits northern UK
- Ofsted warning on secondary schools

11th December

- Miliband: Deficit a test for Labour
- Poorest pupils jump in three Rs test
- Gatwick risk 'if it gets new runway'

12th December

- Education chief refuses to answer boy's maths poser
- One in four elderly dreads 'lonely and fearful Christmas'
- Water bills to fall 'by 5%' by 2020



National News Headlines December 2014

13th December

- Half of new UK laws were created by EU
- Migrant hidden under lorry dies on M25
- Coldest winter for 50 years

14th December

- 120,000 stranded by air traffic chaos 'will get no compensation'
- Come clean on British links to torture, MPs tell US Senate
- Thatcher 'murder' is BBC's book at bedtime

15th December

- If we work hard we can get UK out the EU, vows Ukip MP
- Don't talk about migrants, Labour chiefs warn MPs
- Police cuts 'will endanger public'

16th December

- Labour's 'tax hikes misery for millions'
- BT bills could rise as it bids £12billion for mobile phone giant EE
- Miliband aide's 'cack-handed' leak on migrants

17th December

- Hague sets out three options on 'devolution' for English MPs
- Russia rocked by 'full-blown currency crisis'
- UK unemployment falls again

18th December

- Pay outstrips inflation as record 31m have jobs
- 80,000 UK students told: you can't train as a nurse
- The great British library betrayal



National News Headlines December 2014

19th December

- Illegal migrants make 3,000 attempts each month to enter Britain
- Off-duty policeman killed in assault
- Women could join British infantry

20th December

- Poland's threats on benefit curbs
- French fail to keep tabs on migrants sneaking in
- Migration system 'in intensive care'

21st December

- NHS crisis grows as young Britons turn their backs on family doctors -
- Parents' mental health helpline loses its grant
- Secret plan to double ambulance wait times

22nd December

- Pressure grows on PM for judge to lead inquiry into torture
- Demand to penalise councils over cull of teachers
- Who is urging town planners to take a leaf from nature's book?

23rd December

- Bid to ban migrants claiming benefits for children living abroad
- Record SNP poll lead could see Salmond become deputy PM
- Ed Balls: I'll fast-track the mansion tax

24th December

- Top Tories in clash over foreign students
- My fear of anti-Semitism in the UK, by BBC chief
- Service marks Glasgow bin lorry crash



National News Headlines January 2015

1st January

- 2,300 jobs axed as administrators reject last-minute City Link buy out
- RBS chief will take a £1m 'bonus'
- Huge crowds welcome in new year in UK

2nd January

- Plane 'blown off' airport runway
- Botulism fear for drug users being treated in city hospitals
- Doctors attack plans for 24/7 health service

3rd January

- Tories pledge to ban six-figure golden goodbyes in public sector
- Prince embroiled in sex claims
- Cheaper holidays as euro tumbles

4th January

- Tragic jet 'had no clearance'
- NHS is missing key targets, says Labour
- Tragic jet 'had no clearance'

5th January

- MPrime Minister hints at an early vote to get Britain out of the EU
- Charity to probe UK Ebola nurse case
- Falklands expects 3,000 British visitors

6th January

- Labour's £ 20bn spend plan ' will cause chaos'
- Tories ridicule Miliband's 4 million ' doorstep chats'
- US permits Irish beef exports again



National News Headlines January 2015

7th January

- Labour at war over Scotland's tax grab
- Food prices to be slashed as Asda unveils £ 1bn cuts
- Labour seeks summit to find A&E 'fix'

8th January

- Merkel rejects curb on migrant benefits
- Cameron: Freedom will win
- Security meeting after Paris attack

9th January

- Red Cross called in to help crisis- hit hospital
- Killer flu strain doubles A& E cases
- M15 'cannot stop every threat to UK'

10th January

- Poverty alert for pensioners who plunder savings
- Conservatives pledge new strike curbs
- 999 crews told to stay away from bed-crisis hospital

11th January

- Threat high as French march 'for freedom and tolerance'
- Coalition at war over 'brutal' Tory attempt to curb strike action
- French Jews in shock after deadly end to siege at kosher supermarket

12th January

- Osborne: Only rich will pay death tax
- Inflation falls to block rate rise
- PM discusses UK terror threat



National News Headlines January 2015

13th January

- Immigration 'is not a key Tory theme'
- SAS on streets if gun jihadis attack Britain
- Schools face 'places breaking point'

14th January

- Leaders warn PM over TV debates
- Snow and gales to sweep across UK
- Restraint call in UK over cartoon

15th January

- Cameron is 'frit' of TV debates says Miliband
- PM's web terror plea to Obama
- Questi

16th January

- Osborne: UK could be richest economy in the world by 2030
- BP to announce North Sea job cuts
- Teacher's sex sentence 'too lenient'

17th January

- Cameron: Jewish community must be protected
- Oil price cut 'should help fund wage rise'
- PM warning over terrorist ransoms

18th January

- UK and US to set up joint group to combat terrorism
- Probe demand as cost of V&A museum hits £80m
- Prison drug seizures increasing



National News Headlines January 2015

19th January

- Clegg defies the polls and says: I'd make a deal with Dave or Ed
- Bosses fear indecisive election result
- Minister defends letter to mosques

20th January

- UK Muslim lawyer rants at West over slaughter in Paris
- Cameron defends plea to mosques to help in the war on extremism
- Shock as Coronation Street Deirdre dies at 60

21st January

- Islamist killer faked death to return to UK
- Jihadi John demands £ 132m from Japan
- UK wide open to 'freeloading' EU migrants, says Foreign Secretary

22nd January

- Jobless total lowest for six years
- Lone wolf stabs 11 in Israel bus attack
- Judge brands Pickles racist over travellers

23rd January

- A&E waiting times in England improve
- O2 sale 'to create UK's biggest mobile group'
- Hacking 'may have been worse at Mirror'

24th January

- Bonanza for British tourists as euro set to hit a 13-year low
- SNP open door to deal with Labour over future of the Lords
- London 'needs extra £20m to fight Paris-style attack'



25th January

- Warsi launches bitter assault on coalition strategy towards Muslims
- Top Ukip man: I'm defecting to Tories
- Monsters are given their own cell keys

26th January

- Surge in Green votes ' could cost Labour 22 seats'
- Greek vote sends euro into crisis
- Stay-at-home mothers are biggest losers in tax shake-up

27th January

- Cameron says choice is clear: Tory tax cuts or chaos of Miliband
- Gang plotted anti- Semitic attack
- UK economic growth hits 2.6% in 2014

28th January

- Cameron: UK better off with fewer migrants
- UK records fastest growth for 7 years
- Many asthma diagnoses 'may be wrong'

29th January

- Stamp duty reform ' boosts house sales'
- Fury as Labour talks to Sinn Fein over pact
- Interest rates 'to stay ultra-low until 2020'

30th January

- Union accused of £ 1.5m bid to buy Labour policy
- Russia gets a dressing down after its bombers flew over Bournemouth
- Churchill's funeral anniversary marked

31st January

- Scandal of £2.1bn wasted on human rights court cases
- 'Hugely exciting' research may lead to extending life
- Brown lined up as Labour's 'secret weapon' in election



National News Headlines February 2015

1st February

- Army sent in to hospitals
- Murder of Japanese journalist an 'inhuman and despicable act'
- Tories pledge leap in 'Three Rs' – but can we really beat Korea?

2nd February

- Labour reeling as top bosses attack policies
- Aid billions not always the best way to help the poor, MPs admit
- Cameron attacks school 'mediocrity'

3rd February

- Greek debt stand-off 'risks global economy'
- Lower oil price hits BP profits
- Crucial vote on three-person babies

4th February

- 'Half of UK people' will get cancer
- Empty shops 'show North-South divide'
- Tory plans are threat to UK survival, says Brown

5th February

- Rows over Blair- Bush memos delay Iraq war inquiry report by year
- UK's commitment to crushing ISIS? Just one strike a day
- Tesco investigated by new regulator

6th February

- House prices soar £ 4,000 in a month after triple boost
- Police in swoop on 45 more men over child sex grooming
- Poundland seeks to buy 99p Stores



National News Headlines February 2015

7th February

- Miliband warning to UK 'tax havens'
- NHS complaints process 'inadequate'
- Cameron gaining ground on EU reform

8th February

- NHS 'special measures' has saved hundreds of lives
- Ukraine peace bid 'is the last chance to avoid all-out war'
- Britons now have to 'pay to protest', says climate group

9th February

- Fight anti-Semitism with 'internet bans'
- Hold EU vote as soon as possible, Cameron warned
- Report says power shift to cities may bring boost of £200bn

10th February

- It's time Britain had a pay rise says Cameron
- US: We may arm Ukraine
- UK prisoner voting rights 'breached'

11th February

- Cameron: EU in- out poll will not harm UK
- NHS staff 'afraid to speak out'
- Sturgeon: UK austerity 'has failed'

12th February

- New plan for early EU vote
- Agony of NHS whistle blowers
- Storm over battle bus



National News Headlines February 2015

13th February

- Pro-immigration lobby hampers any real reforms
- School pork ban too rash says butchers
- MP's optimistic about early EU referendum

14th February

- Savings boost for millions
- Migrant guide is UK's most borrowed book
- Coalition! Stuff that says Nigel

15th February

- Free speech under attack, once again
- Serious concern over the 'academies business'
- Dementia hits women hardest – study

16th February

- If you pay cash in hand get a receipt, says Balls
- Strong cannabis causes one in four cases of psychosis
- Labour may ban private government

17th February

- 'We'll make jobless young work for dole'
- Now Tories take a four-point poll lead
- Rein in stop and search, May tells police

18th February

- Navy tracks Russians in Channel
- Further fall in UK unemployment
- Energy customers 'miss big savings'



National News Headlines February 2015

19th February

- Fury over big jump in migrant workers
- Labour to nationalise rail as priority
- UK minister sees Russia Baltic threat

20th February

- Cameron: We owe enormous debt to Bomber Command
- Pension reform 'to have ghastly consequences'
- Germans torpedo Greek rescue plan

21st February

- Mandy warns Miliband over 'credibility gap'
- Chelsea fans in London racism probe
- Savers told: final salary pensions are not safe

22nd February

- Law chief marks Magna Carta with fierce attack on Cameron
- Victory for MoS as police power to spy on reporters is cut
- Labour to hand Prescott frontline election role as Tories edge ahead

23rd February

- I'll protect pensioners' benefits vows Cameron
- Prescott's back to 'bash heads'
- Britain battered by 48 hours of icy gales and snow

24th February

- Rifkind 'under pressure' to step down
- Firms flouting minimum wage named
- Teenage pregnancies hit record low



National News Headlines February 2015

25th February

- Jihadi teens 'have crossed into Syria'
- UK to send troops and kit to help Ukrainian army
- Call to scrap waiting times law as breaches hit record

26th February

- Now 'mad' EU says mobility scooters must be insured
- Holidays boost as pound hits a seven-year high against the euro
- Eight in 10 jobs created in last five years are low paid

27th February

- Farage is all set for Westminster as he surges to 11-point poll lead
- Angelic schoolboy who turned into a reviled executioner
- Jihad John revealed as geek loser

28th February

- Ukip to 'win lots of seats' vows Farage
- UK 'must prepare for Russian threat'
- Tributes as Spock star dies



10th anniversary of Freedom of Information Act

Ahead of the 10th anniversary of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, Justice Minister Simon Hughes has hailed the legislation 'a triumph for transparency' and revealed more than 400,000 information requests have been made since 1 January 2005.

The volume of requests made to monitored central government bodies has risen steadily since 2007 to the point where almost 1,000 are now received every week.

FOI has seen some groundbreaking release of data that has greatly informed public debate and understanding of how public services are performing. An early example was publication of the individual mortality

rates for all heart surgeons working in the NHS that highlighted varying performance levels across UK hospitals. The act has also led to a greater culture of transparency; information such as public sector salaries higher than £150,000 was first released under FOI but is now routinely published.

An incredible £50,000 spent on dealing with hoax calls to the emergency services in the East Midlands and the antics of a 99-year-old man who was arrested on suspicion of burglary in the West Country are among examples of other information revealed by the act.

This government has built on the success of

the act by extending FOI to more than 100 new organisations as part of its ongoing commitment to transparency.

Justice Minister Simon Hughes said:

"The FOI Act has been a triumph for transparency and this government has built on its continued success by extending its reach.

"FOI is not only about the high-profile, headline-making releases of information but about the right of the individual to find out about the issues that matter to them. It is a fundamental right of all citizens to be able to hold their government to account and that is why transparency is vital.

"We have extended FOI to more than 100 new organisations as well as

making changes to allow the earlier release of historic central government records.

"We are not stopping there and as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the FOI Act we look forward to making government even more transparent by publishing more information and further extending the reach of FOI."

Since 2010, FOI has been extended to cover academies, companies wholly owned by more than one public authority, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service and the Financial Ombudsman Service. Earlier this year the government announced that the act will also be extended to Network Rail in 2015.

This government has also reduced the point at which historic records are made available at the National Archives and other places of deposit, from 30 to 20 years. The latest publication in this phased transition has been made this week (30 December), featuring files from 1985 and 1986.

High Wycombe visit reunites designer with a piece of history

During a recent trade skills visit to the British Furniture Manufacturers (BFM) offices in High Wycombe, Keith Welters (of FD Welters Ltd) noticed a rather familiar chair in front of the MD's desk.

The chair was originally used by Keith's Grandfather and founder of FD Welters Ltd back in the 1960's who was at the time President of the then High Wycombe and District Furniture Manufacturers Society (now merged with the BFM). In fact the chair's embossed logo was designed by Keith himself when he was a young apprentice at the firm.

"I am absolutely delighted to see the chair again after all these years and in its most appropriate place" said Keith.



Keith Welters - FD Welters Ltd

Schools to teach Magna Carta - Tristram Hunt



Tristram Hunt MP

Tristram Hunt will call for a renewal of our politics so that young people are better able to thrive in the modern world, confident of our history and our values.

This year sees both the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and the 750th anniversary of Parliament.

As preparations for these anniversaries get underway, it's vital that we renew our politics.

16 and 17 year old in Scotland voted but did so amongst one of the most intense political debates we have seen.

Mr Hunt will argue that in a globalised, interdependent world, it is more important than ever that we are teaching political literacy, current affairs, human rights at the heart of curriculum. We've seen the problems when schools are too insular, too dogmatic, not preparing young people for the modern world.

Tristram Hunt MP, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, writing in an article for The Sun newspaper, said:

"An incoming Labour government will update the citizenship curriculum to tell our story of freedom, give teachers the tools they need to explain the importance of 1215, and allow young people to register to vote at school."

Driving licences to display Union Flag

British motorists will be able to fly the flag with pride in the new year thanks to government plans to display the Union Flag on driving licences, transport minister Claire Perry has announced.

Anyone applying for a new licence or changing their personal details will be issued with a licence showing both the British and European Union flags.

The changes will apply to motorists in England, Scotland and Wales and provide road users with a symbolic sign of their national identity.

Transport Minister Claire Perry said:

People in this country rightly take pride in our

national flag which is why I am delighted it will now be displayed on British driving licences.

Celebrating Britain strengthens our sense of national identity and our unity. I will feel proud to carry my new licence and I hope others will too.

The inclusion of union flags on licences is one of a number of improvements being made for motorists. On 25 October this year, the DVLA announced a dramatic drop in licence fees for those who apply online. In the interests of reducing unnecessary red tape, since 1 October this year the paper tax disc is no more and motorists can pay their vehicle tax by direct debit. From 8 June next year the paper counterpart

of the photocard licence will no longer be required.

DVLA has also introduced a service to allow the public to check the most up to date information on their driving record.

The European Union flag has been displayed on full driving licences since photocards first came into use in July 1998. More than 127 million photocard licences have been issued since they were introduced.



Confirmed Ebola case in Scotland: Prime Minister's statement

Downing Street statement following the confirmation of an Ebola case in Scotland, a Downing Street spokesman said:

“The Prime Minister has called the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon regarding the confirmed case of Ebola in Scotland.

The Prime Minister made clear that the UK government stood ready to assist in any way possible.

The Prime Minister and the First Minister discussed the UK's robust and practised response procedures in place and how these were being strictly followed.

They agreed that both governments would remain in close touch and ensure everything possible was done to support the patient and, although the risk to the general population remained low, all measures would be taken to protect public health.

The Prime Minister's thoughts are with the patient and her friends and family at this difficult time.”

Scientists soak up new deep sea discovery

A major deep-sea sponge reef ecosystem has been discovered hundreds of miles off the north west coast of Scotland at Rosemary Bank.

Marine Scotland visual surveys have uncovered the most extensive and pristine sponge reefs to have been reported in UK waters.

Sponges have a skeletal structure and resemble bird's nests, mushrooms or large cheeses. They filter enormous volumes of water and provide refuge for many other species of fish and invertebrates.

By designating Rosemary Bank as a marine protected area it will help this unusual ecosystem continue to thrive.

Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead said:



Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead

“Scottish waters cover an area around five times bigger than our land mass and are miles deep in places. These hidden gems offer a fascinating glimpse of the treasures that still await discovery under the waves.

“This important discovery is the largest grouping of

sponge in the whole of the UK. Scotland's seas are home to a diverse range of precious sea life and it is our responsibility to protect this fragile environment. This is why earlier this year we designated Rosemary Bank as a marine protected area, to ensure the protection of ecosystems like this.” Francis Neat, Chief Scientist on the survey said:

“Deep-sea sponge reefs such as those on the Rosemary Bank seamount may take hundreds of years to form. They provide refuge for a great diversity of marine life; among the sponges we saw sharks, skates, octopus and crustaceans. The new data from this survey reaffirms the case for designation of the Rosemary Bank as a Marine Protected Area and will allow us to provide a stronger scientific basis for developing management plans for the area.”

UKIP dismayed after police fail to stop protesters in Rotherham

UKIP have voiced their dismay with the conduct of South Yorkshire Police with regards to the long standing visit by Nigel Farage to the Rotherham campaign shop opening which was disrupted by the Socialist Workers Party, the TUSC and several former Labour Party Councillors creating several serious public safety issues.



Whilst UKIP has had a good working relationship with many Police services throughout the country on this occasion we feel let down.

UKIP had made contact with local police services on the Tuesday prior to the opening to discuss the policing of the event, a CAD reference number was given and back up had been promised in the event of any disturbances.

Common Buzzards taken at Whithaugh in the Scottish Borders



Fledgling buzzard at Whithaugh

The buzzard is the most common bird of prey in UK. Its large size (wingspan of over a metre) distinguishes it from other hawks, however it is considerably smaller than an eagle, with which it is often confused. The buzzard is a slow flier and unlikely to catch prey on the wing, however it is a patient predator and its markings provide excellent camouflage which enable it to sit in trees for hours waiting for a small rodents to pass.

Visit <http://wild-scotland.org.uk> for more informations



Proskills MakeIT! Programmes - Donations Needed

MakeIT! Furniture & Wood are both an industry-based project and competition for schools, mapped to the national curriculum and Diplomas.



It familiarises students with how furniture or wood is designed and manufactured in the Furniture, Furnishings and Interiors (FFI) Industry or Wood Industry, through researching and designing products and investigating the various different aspects of the industry – from sourcing raw materials

to producing finished products.

The project asks students to research and design a product, identifying the type of raw materials used, considering sustainable design and investigating production processes as well as showing their understanding of environmental issues.

Students are asked to create a piece of either furniture or wood based with a new closer look into the materials used, their origins, uses and sustainability. Teachers are supplied with a guide that includes a series or prepared lesson plans, downloadable interactive

multi-media resources and interactive presentations.

Help us inspire the next generation into the wood or furniture industries!

Through careers information, projects and visits, students are encouraged to consider a career in these industries.

After taking part in the 2013 programme, 50% more students say they would consider a career in the Wood or Furniture industries.

MakeIT! relies solely on the wood and/or furniture industries. Whether you're interested in donating to the programme or assisting in industry visits for the students, we want to hear from you.

Visit the Proskills website <http://www.proskills.co.uk/makeit/> and download the donor brochure for more information on how you can support the programme.



Encouraging start to the year for apprenticeships and traineeships

The government has welcomed figures showing that the number of young people taking part in apprenticeships and traineeships continues to rise.

The provisional figures for the first 3 months of this academic year show that there were more than 573,000 people participating in apprenticeships – including more than 353,000 16 to 24 year-olds.

Skills Minister Nick Boles said:

“At 147,500, the number of people starting an apprenticeship between August and October 2014 is up on the same period in 2013.

“We have delivered over 2,140,000 apprenticeships since 2010 and will continue to make sure our young people have every chance to benefit from the life-changing opportunity of an apprenticeship.”

The provisional figures also show that, despite being a relatively new development, the number of people participating in higher apprenticeships now stands at over 15,000. Higher apprenticeships allow learners to develop high level technical skills that employers want and need up to post-graduate level.

These latest figures reveal that there have been more than 2.1 million apprenticeship starts since May 2010. The government

celebrated fulfilling its commitment to creating 2 million apprenticeships within this Parliament at the end of last year. This important achievement highlights the continued success of apprenticeships in giving people the skills they need to get on, and in supporting businesses of all sizes to develop skilled employees.

In addition to the positive news on apprenticeships, the figures show the continued success of traineeships as the programme moves in to its second year. There were 5,000 traineeship starts in the first quarter of the 2014 to 2015 academic year. This builds on the first year of the programme which saw more than 10,000 young people taking the

opportunity to gain the skills and work experience that will put them on track for a rewarding career.

Apprenticeship reforms are making apprenticeships more rigorous and responsive to the needs of employers. More than 1,000 employers are now involved in developing new high quality apprenticeships as part of the government’s successful Trailblazers scheme. The new apprenticeships are in a broad range of sectors from nuclear to fashion, law, banking and the armed forces.



Health Minister gives go-ahead for standardised packaging for cigarettes to be introduced in Wales

The regulations, which will be subject to a vote by MPs, are intended to come into force in May 2016.

The Children and Families Act 2014 gives the Secretary of State enabling powers to make regulations to regulate the retail packaging of tobacco products; regulate the markings on and appearance of tobacco products; and create associated offences.

The Secretary of State's regulation-making power extends to the whole of the UK.

However, the Secretary of State must seek the consent of Welsh Ministers before making regulations

which contain provisions within the legislative competence of the National Assembly.

Professor Drakeford said:

"I have written to the UK Government's Public Health Minister confirming my approval that proposed regulations to introduce standardised packaging for cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco will apply in Wales.

"I welcome this move, which will play an important part in our efforts to tackle the harm caused by tobacco.

"The Welsh Government will continue to work to reduce smoking levels in Wales to 16% by 2020."

Comment on reports HSBC 'helped clients dodge millions in tax'



Cathy Jamieson MP

On reports HSBC 'helped clients dodge millions in tax', shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury Cathy Jamieson MP said:

"HMRC were made fully aware of these practices back in 2010. There are serious questions for the Chancellor to answer about why just one person out of over a thousand have been prosecuted in five years. And why the Government's Swiss tax deal has been

such an embarrassing flop, raising a fraction of the amounts initially boasted of by ministers."

"Tax avoidance and evasion harms every taxpayer in Britain, and undermines public services like the NHS.

"The Chancellor also needs to urgently explain how the then chairman of HSBC, Stephen Green, could have been appointed a Conservative peer and a Minister by David Cameron just eight months after the Government was made aware of these activities taking place on his watch at HSBC.

"Once again the Tories have been exposed as unable and unwilling to take real action on tax avoidance – little wonder that under them the tax gap has risen year on year."

2 million families and pensioners to get money off energy bills

Next winter 2 million low-income and vulnerable households will get £140 off their energy bills, thanks to the government's Warm Home Discount scheme.

Changes to the scheme will mean an additional 70,000 struggling families, disabled customers and other vulnerable people are eligible to apply. This rebate will help them heat their homes for less, giving them the help they need and money off their bills next winter.

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Ed Davey said:

“One family living in a cold home is one too many. That's why this government is spending more than before to help over 2 million

families and pensioners heat their homes for less.

“Money off bills is a start, but we're also driving bills down through more competition and making homes warmer through energy efficiency to bring energy bills down permanently.

The government consulted key stakeholders on the changes to the Warm Home Discount. Lily Caprani, Director of Policy at The Children's Society, said:

“The government's extension of the Warm Home Discount for another year is an important step for the huge numbers of families struggling to keep their children warm this winter.

“Low income families with disabled children and those with children under five will benefit from the decision to standardise access to this discount across suppliers – action that The Children's Society has been campaigning for.”

This winter alone more than 2 million people benefitted from £310 million of assistance through the Warm Home Discount. This is on top of £2.15 billion paid out to 9 million households under the Winter Fuel Payments scheme this year, and over half a billion pounds invested in energy efficiency schemes over three years.

The Warm Home Discount was introduced by the government in April 2011

and is administered by energy suppliers to provide one-off rebates on the electricity bills of households that need it most in England, Scotland and Wales.



The New London Fabric Show 2015 – hailed a great success



BFM's Managing Director Jackie Bazeley with Welters Organisation Worldwide CEO Keith Welters

The new London Fabric show, which was held on 23/24 February 2015, was hailed as a great success with circa 100 companies visiting. Customers included good quality

manufacturers and retailers. Those attending included Alstons, Buoyant, Collins and Hayes, Dfs, Duresta, Parker Knoll, John Sankey, Vale Bridgecraft, David Linley, Wade Upholstery,

Steinhoff, Next, John Lewis, Henderson Russell, Lebus, QFC and other notable names.

With 21 mills exhibiting both contract and domestic textiles it is an event not to be missed by anyone serious about upholstery fabric buying. Graham Stewart of Collins and Hayes said that 'it is a prestigious venue with the ability to view the best of international fabrics'.

Tina Evans of Shop Direct (brands Very, Littlewoods etc) was similarly impressed and welcomed being able to meet with so many mills in one day, which "would normally take weeks to visit".

The event was held at Chelsea Football Club,

Stamford Bridge, with each mill showing in an Executive box, a facility which allowed for private consultations with individual companies. The same venue has been booked for the end of February 2016, and more mills are expected to show.

Jackie Bazeley said

"We are delighted at the response from both visitors and exhibitors alike. The BFM aimed to deliver a show which provided a friendly, professional environment in which to do business, combined with the choice of international fabric brands. From the feedback to date this was achieved. We will of course not become complacent and will review the feedback and look at how we can continually improve the event."

THE NEW LONDON
FABRIC
SHOW 2015

The Art of Manufacturing

Part 6

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



Keith Welters 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.

In this final instalment we look at the UK Manufacturing

welters[®]
ORGANISATION
WORLDWIDE
Design and Innovation



UK Manufacturing

The art of making things whether in small or large volumes is the practical knowledge of understanding how things work, what they are made of and the relationships between components and knowing their capabilities and their limitations.



The Art of Manufacturing - welters®

From software to hardware and from widget to sprocket, without this fundamental engineering knowledge and expertise, the UK will be relegated from a leading world innovator, to a country that imports its products and ideas from outside its borders.

Do we really want to be reliant on other countries for our future prosperity?

The UK has always produced the talent, but if we don't invest firstly in the training of our next generation of engineers and then in the actual manufacturing facilities that will provide the career opportunities to retain those engineers, we will continue to lose them to overseas manufacturing companies who are only too pleased to make full use of their talents.

Our loss is their gain.



We need to grow our manufacturing industry and encourage people to get interested in the art of making things.

Designing for a purpose and producing well made competitive products creates jobs and security for the future.



British Innovation



The label 'Made in Britain' was envied around the world. Various Made in Britain campaigns have been launched to encourage UK businesses over the years but these have been short-lived.

The latest campaign was started in 2011 by cooker manufacturer Stoves in an effort to support and highlight the importance of British manufacturing.

The idea for a logo to identify products made in Britain was conceived by Prescott-based cooker manufacturer Stoves following research that it carried out in 2011 showing that the British public was confused about what products were made in the UK. Stoves launched a competition among students at British universities to design a Made in Britain logo. The chosen design was unveiled in July 2011 and companies making products in the UK were invited to apply to use the logo. By October 2012, 600 companies were using

the logo.

In November 2012 a committee was formed to oversee the marque and assist with the ongoing promotion of the campaign. In June 2013 the committee commissioned design agency The Partners to re-design the logo and establish a membership scheme for users of the logo.

**MADE IN
BRITAIN**



Government Backing?

The irony is the Government cannot be seen to be openly backing a Made in Britain campaign. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills says the UK relies on open markets and a Buy British campaign would be counter-productive. The reason given is 50% of UK exports go to the EU and a government backed campaign to promote UK goods to UK people could cause 'retaliation' which would ultimately be bad for the economy.



Livery Company Support

If the government is unable to support a campaign then it is up to industry bodies to take the lead.

Through the creation of exciting training courses in the Art of Manufacturing and inspiring all Livery Companies to join in a new campaign to Buy British Made Products we could achieve the kick-start to the economy that the Olympics failed to achieve.



This philosophy is also echoed by a growing number of trade associations such as the British Furniture Manufacturers (BFM) which is a trade association, employers' organisation and member of the European Furniture Manufacturers' Association.

BFM has been representing the interests of the furniture industry for more than 60 years, safeguarding members interests and promoting their standards and competitiveness, both nationally and internationally.



Natural England approves trial release of beavers

A licence will be issued to Devon Wildlife Trust permitting the managed release into the wild of beavers on a 5 year trial basis

Natural England's Board has confirmed that a licence will be issued to Devon Wildlife Trust, permitting the managed release into the wild of beavers currently resident in the River Otter

catchment in Devon, on a 5 year trial basis.

Devon Wildlife Trust's licence application has been thoroughly assessed against the internationally recognised guidelines published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The licence is subject to a range of conditions, including confirmation that the beavers are of Eurasian

origin and are free of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* parasite.

Under the terms of the licence, by September at the latest, Devon Wildlife Trust must develop a management strategy to deal quickly with any undesirable impacts which the beavers may have on the River Otter during the trial period, as well as a monitoring programme to

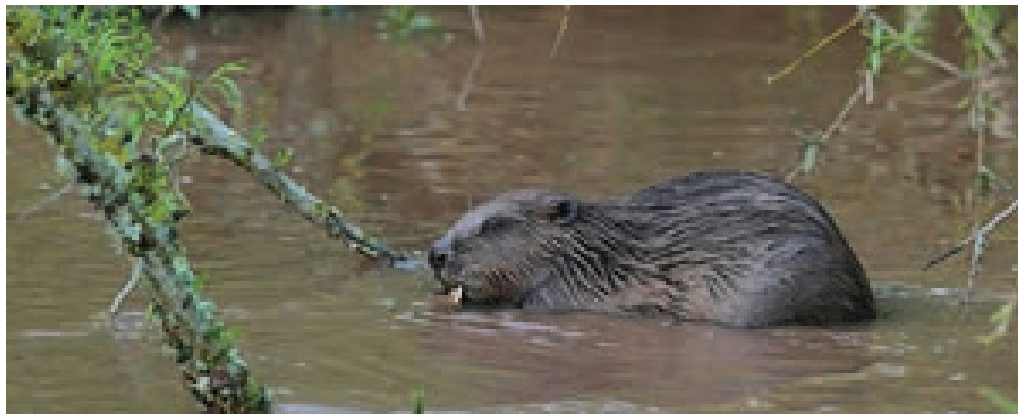
study their impacts.

Andrew Sells, Natural England's Chairman commented:

Reintroduction of a species is a complicated and emotive subject and we have considered this application very carefully. Responses to our written consultation and public meetings have been generally positive and we are now satisfied with Devon Wildlife Trust's plans for managing and monitoring the project, which will allow important evidence to be gathered during the trial on any impacts which the beavers may have.

Future decisions by Natural England on the release of beavers will in large part be informed by the results of this trial. The unauthorised release of beavers remains illegal and Natural England does not expect to grant any other licences for beaver release during this trial period.

Trapping and testing of the animals for *Echinococcus multilocularis* will be carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency under a separate licence that was granted towards the end of 2014.



Beaver on the River Otter in Devon © Dave Land

£4 million to transform empty properties

Empty shops and properties which are blighting Scotland's town centres could be transformed into affordable housing thanks to a new £4 million fund.

The Town Centre Empty Homes Fund will provide grant and loan funding to help increase the supply of housing in Scotland's urban and rural towns.

The Fund, which will open for bids shortly, will offer funding to regenerate both homes which have been lying empty for long periods of time, and to convert empty commercial spaces into residential accommodation. The properties will then be available for affordable rent or sale.

It comes on top of the work of the Shelter Scotland managed Empty Homes Partnership which recently had its funding doubled and received a three year extension, to help bring more private sector empty homes back into use.

Housing Minister Margaret Burgess announced details of the new Fund at the Shelter Scotland Homelessness Conference. She said:

“Making sure everyone has access to affordable homes where they can feel safe and warm, is a priority for the Scottish Government. But it's not just about building new homes, we need to make better use of our existing housing stock and properties.

“It makes absolutely no sense for us to have more than 30,000 homes lying empty when homelessness still exists in Scotland.

“Empty shops and flats can be an eyesore in our communities, devaluing our properties and even encouraging anti-social behaviour.

“Bringing these empty properties back into use is a cost-effective way of increasing the supply of housing available to families across Scotland and it also aides community regeneration.

“By transforming derelict shops and flats into new homes, we will be able to inject some life back into our town centres and make them attractive places to live and work.”

Comment on the Tory split over plain packaging

Luciana Berger MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Public Health said:

“The shambles of tobacco packaging reveals how weak David Cameron is, with reports that 100 of his MPs are prepared to rebel against him on this vital measure.

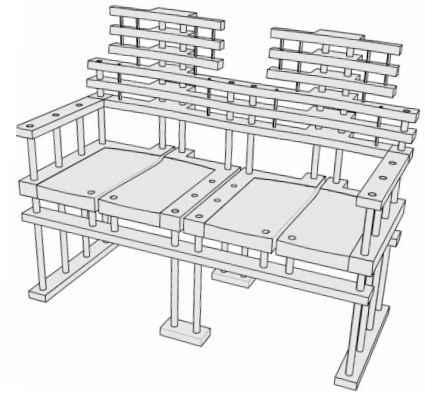
“Almost a year ago, Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of standardised packaging with just 24 MPs voting against it yet David Cameron has still not been able to deliver, unable to command the support of his own party.

“Standardised packaging of tobacco is backed by the conclusions of the Government's own reviews, and has the support of public health experts, public and Parliament alike. Yet the Government has taken almost a year to make this next step and in that time 200,000 children would have taken up smoking.

“David Cameron must get a grip and introduce this vital measure as soon as possible.”

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ORGANISATION
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Furniture Design and Innovation



welters[®] Windsor Chair Range

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

Coalition cuts hitting young families hardest

The coalition's changes to benefits and direct taxes have hurt families with children under five harder than any other household group, according to the most comprehensive evaluation yet of the UK government's social policy record.

The report – prepared by a group of academics overseen by the LSE and the Universities of Manchester and York – also said that the poorest were the hardest hit, and that the cuts to welfare were offset by the cost of tax cuts higher up the income scale, with no overall contribution to paying down the deficit.

The report concludes that the government's stated aim that the rich should contribute proportionately

more to repairing the country's finances has "not been realised".



Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP

Commenting, SNP Work and Pensions spokesperson Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP said:

"This report lays bare the extent of the UK government's disastrous austerity agenda.

"The Scottish Government is doing all it can to mitigate the impact of welfare cuts, but the real powers over tax and welfare still remain in Westminster – despite the fact that the UK government has proven time and time again it cannot be trusted to look out for our most vulnerable people.

"While the SNP voted against continued austerity from Westminster, Scottish Labour sided with the coalition and voted for £30bn more austerity which, as this report shows, hits the poorest the hardest.

"A strong team of SNP MPs will ensure that Scotland's priorities will become Westminster's priorities, and force an end to failed austerity."

Community event to tackle FGM

The conference, which will be held in the Butetown Youth Pavilion, aims to improve awareness of FGM and strengthen the voices of people speaking out against it.

It will help affected girls and women to make informed choices about services they need. It also aims to improve partnership working to report and tackle FGM and widen the availability of services.

The conference looks to support affected communities to reject FGM as part of their culture.

Public Services Minister Leighton Andrews said: "The Welsh Government is committed to ending violence against women and girls.

"There are no religious or medical foundations for FGM, it is child abuse.

"The strong youth element of the conference aims to empower the next generation to make a stand against and eradicate FGM in the future."

Minister keen to help allotments bear fruit

New guidance is on its way which will help establish new sites, improve site management, ease planning concerns and better manage waiting lists. benefits.

The Minister for Natural Resources Carl Sargeant said this will be done in partnership with community representatives and local government in order to maximise all potential opportunities to further the growth of allotments.

The Minister said:

“Allotments enable people to grow fresh, sustainable produce for themselves and their families, and encourage better community cohesion and welfare. It’s vital that we continue to support and promote their use and allow as many people as possible to reap the obvious

benefits.

“It’s also true that local authorities are under pressure both in terms of the space available to them and the demand. It’s therefore an important time to think about different ways in which we can strengthen the guidance to better serve our communities - providing options to those already with allotments, waiting for allotments or with the potential space for further allotments.

“I’d like to thank those who responded to the recent consultation on these issues. The wide ranging engagement and views will help inform the revised guidance, which we will introduce later this year.”

Licence to kill

The killing of wild salmon could require a licence, subject to a public consultation, Environment Minister Aileen McLeod has said.

The consultation will seek views on conservation measures which would seek to ban the killing of wild salmon except under licence along with an accompanying carcass tagging scheme to ensure compliance.

The kill license would apply to anglers and netters and it is hoped the new system would be in place for 2016.

Over the next 12 weeks stakeholders will be invited to use the consultation period to offer their views on both the principle of

the proposals and how they might operate in practice.

Launching the consultation, Dr McLeod said:

“I am pleased that we are now in a position to progress this consultation. The Scottish Government is committed to meeting our obligations on wild salmon conservation by ensuring that killing by any method is sustainable.

“We need to ensure we have a robust and sustainable system so our fish thrive and people can continue to enjoy wild fishing and the socio-economic benefits that flow from it for generations to come.

“This is why we have launched a consultation to seek views on a kill licence for wild salmon. I would encourage all those with an interest in the proposals to respond.”



Fourth phase burial chamber during installation



Interment Support Services

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Due to their ongoing success, **welters®** are currently completing new phases of development and reuse projects across a number of Cemetery Village® schemes. These schemes have been designed to grow with demand as they become an established and integral part of the service offered by the Authority.

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welters® can design, supply, install and maintain above and below ground interment and memorial systems for any size and any budget on a fixed price or partnership basis; all supported by full inscription and burial support services .



Second phase mausoleum and burial chamber during installation

Minister in call for more people to see their dentist

Public Health Minister Maureen Watt has called on people across Scotland to make sure they attend regular check-ups at the dentist.

The call comes as the figures released show that more people than ever before are registering with an NHS dentist, while three quarters of those people have attended an appointment within the last two years.

Almost 9 out of 10 people (87 per cent) are now registered with an NHS dentist – the highest reported rate – and marks an increase of 75 per cent from the 2.6 million patients registered in 2007.

Of those registered, 74 per cent had seen their dentist within the last two

years, although children were more likely than adults to have attended an appointment.

The figures also show the deprivation gap has closed for children who are registered with a dentist – 89 per cent for the most deprived and 90 per cent for the least deprived.

Ms Watt said: “Since 2007, we have made great strides in improving people’s access to an NHS dentist with nearly 2 million more people registered under this Government.

“It is particularly welcome to see that 92 per cent of children in Scotland are registered and that this rate remains high across all sections of society.

“However it is very

important that people take the time to attend regular check-ups with their dentist. Attending a dentist on a regular basis can help identify any early signs of oral cancer and means appropriate action can be taken quickly. Also, tooth decay if left untreated can result in tooth loss, but with regular check-ups early decay can be spotted before it gets the chance to cause more damage.

“I’d encourage everyone to take the opportunity of increased access to an NHS dentist, and make sure they take the time to look after their dental health with regular check-ups.”

Separate statistics also published show that the number of children receiving Fluoride Varnishing treatment across

Scotland has increased considerably over the last year.

Nationally the total number of three year-old children receiving two or more Fluoride Varnishing treatments has increased from 12,192 in 2012/13 to 19,320 in 2013/14 – a rise of 58 per cent.

For four year-old children in Scotland, the total number receiving Fluoride Varnishing treatment has risen from 13,068 in 2012/13 to 21,235 in 2013/14 – an increase of 62 per cent.



Pothole compensation for motorists hits more than £2.5m

Councils are paying out thousands of pounds in compensation every day to motorists because of damage caused by potholes on roads.

Scottish Conservative research has revealed local authorities have been forced to pay out nearly £2.7 million in compensation since 2009.

The true figure is expected to be much higher as some councils failed to respond to the Freedom of Information request.

Glasgow accounted for more than half of the payments, with £1.4 million paid out over the past five years.

Renfrewshire was hit for just under £200,000,

Dumfries and Galloway for £117,000 and Edinburgh for £92,000.

The Scottish Conservatives have repeated calls made in their 2011 manifesto to create an additional pothole fund to enable struggling councils to catch up with their long-standing road repairs.

The UK Government introduced such a fund in June 2014 and it included a condition where councils had to report quarterly on how the money was being used.

Scottish Conservative transport spokesman Alex Johnstone said:

“It is often a frustrating and lengthy process for motorists to claim

compensation for damage caused to their cars on public roads.

“If roads were better maintained in the first place then this unnecessary cost to the public purse would be greatly minimised.

“Many of our roads are a national embarrassment and it’s time the SNP ended its piecemeal approach to road maintenance and came up with a longer-term strategy.

“A pothole fund would be a major step forward in helping councils to finally get our roads up to a better standard to benefit motorists across the country.

“The UK Government has led the way with a dedicated pothole fund and there is no reason why it would not work in Scotland too.”

Letwin & the Poll Tax - it seems that the Tory Party never changes - Ashworth

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour’s Shadow Cabinet Office Minister, reacting to revelations under the 30-year rule that David Cameron’s policy boss, Oliver Letwin, pushed to keep the Poll Tax, said:

“Oliver Letwin was a key architect of the poll tax, so enthusiastic about it he pressed Margaret Thatcher to push ahead with its introduction.

Over the years he has called for further privatisation of the NHS and for public expenditure at 35 per cent of GDP. He is David Cameron’s policy chief at the heart of his Government. It seems that the Tory Party never changes.

“With a tax cut for millionaires and a secret plot for another VAT increase if they get in again, you just can’t trust the Tories on tax.”

welters® Cemetery Art Stone Embellished Tablet Friezes

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Introducing a new innovation in memorial tablet design, **welters®**

Cemetery Art tablets are available in a choice of frieze styles based on nature creating a truly unique opportunity for commemorative expression.



welters® continue to invest heavily in distinctive industry specific systems development using their all in-house and genuinely original design driven concepts.

The Cemetery Art tablets are a unique and cost effective design variation option to memorialise in a very personal way, which at the same time uses themes such as nature and landscape. The system further enhances the architectural landscape and adds aesthetic value to any cemetery through the **welters®** Cemetery Village™ livery. Beware of expensive imitations.

Do you have sections or land you believe to be full or unsuitable for burial?

Please contact us for a free evaluation of your most difficult land for earthen burial and let us purchase, lease or partner with you on a profit share scheme. Alternatively, we will design manufacture and install bespoke directly client purchased schemes to allow you to generate full revenue. www.welters-worldwide.com

Reduce your environmental impact by utilising your existing land before extending your services into new site



Public Services Minister hails rise in homes protected by No Cold Caller Zones

The Welsh Government made a commitment in their Programme for Government to extend the coverage of No Cold Caller Zones in Wales.

Intended to protect vulnerable residents and reduce the number of doorstep crime incidents, the No Cold Caller Zones aim to increase the number of areas in which doorstep callers are not welcome.

They are intended to give local residents and communities the confidence to say "no" to uninvited salespeople or to warn rogue traders and cold-callers they are being watched.

Leighton Andrews said:

"Zones require close

partnership working between a number of agencies including the Local Authority, Trading Standards and Police and are a good example of how a collaborative approach across public services can improve the lives of residents.

"When we started this scheme, 38,000 homes were covered by No Cold Caller Zones.

"In November 2013, Local Authorities were invited to bid for funding to support the creation of No Cold Caller Zones, providing they had already identified this as being required in their area.

"Twelve Authorities responded and we approved funding for all

who applied for financial assistance in setting up No Cold Caller Zones. Thanks to this funding a further 15,000 homes have been covered.

"Early evidence appears to suggest there have been fewer callers with a reduction in the numbers of reported incidents. While it is too early to draw any firm conclusions from this evidence, residents are reporting they feel safer in their homes and more able to deal with and report cold callers who breach the zones."

Freeing parents and Governors from central dictat: not imposing ideology will improve School standards

Responding to proposals and claims made by the Conservatives about changes to be made to the Education system. UKIP Deputy Leader Paul Nuttall MEP, UKIP education spokesman, said,



"They seem to be forgetting they have been in power for the last five years, and sat back as spectators while our schools fill to bursting point, and more children than ever are sent to schools they didn't chose.

"What Cameron is saying is that those that have led a school into decline will need to come up with a plan to improve it. Surely if they were capable of that, the school wouldn't have fallen into decline in the first place.

