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Spring 2019 Edition



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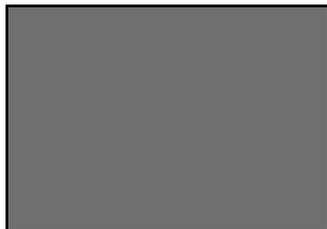
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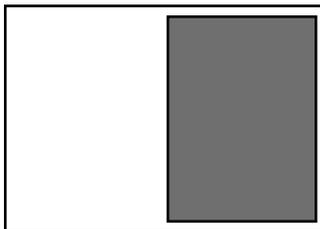
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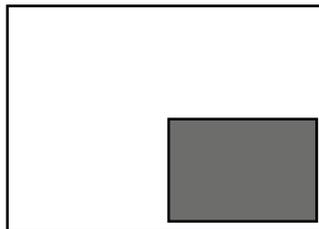
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Cover picture: Earth trapped in plastic bottle, referencing the distortion of our global ecosystems and environment due to plastic waste.



Paul's News Roundup

*Summary of the main news
and sports events over the last
three months*

By Paul G Bazeley for
Government World

January News Review

Theresa May's Brexit deal was defeated 432 votes to 202 in parliament. Following the defeat, a vote of no confidence is issued, however, Theresa May's government managed to survive by 19 votes. Following the no-confidence vote, Jeremy Corbyn announced the Labour Party propose a second

referendum before the UK exits the EU.

After a 35 day shutdown, the longest in US history, due to disagreements of spending on the United States/Mexico border wall, President Donald Trump announced a short-term deal had been struck with congressional leaders to temporarily re-open the federal government.

Alex Salmond, the former first minister of

Scotland is charged with indecent assault and two attempted rapes. The 64-year old who was first minister from 2007-2014 faced 14 charges but insisted he was 'innocent of any criminality'.

Lee Pomeroy, a 51-year-old who was travelling on a train to London with his son was stabbed to death in Surrey after a small row. Darren Pencille was later arrested and charged with the murder of Mr Pomeroy and a 27-year-old lady Chelsea Mitchell was also arrested for assisting an offender.

A documentary called 'Surviving R. Kelly' was released which details alleged sexual abuse and claims the singer ran

a cult which kept women against their will. R. Kelly was dropped by RCA Records after the release of the documentary. The R&B singer has denied all the allegations.

Facebook removed alleged Russian-based accounts after cracking down on the misuse of its services.

January Sports Review

Despite losing 2-1 to their closest rivals which ended a 20 game unbeaten run, Liverpool remained top of the Premier League at the end of January, 5 points clear of Man City in second place.

An aircraft which was carrying Emiliano Sala goes missing around the Chanel Islands. The Forward had been signed by Cardiff City from Nantes and had returned to France to collect personal belongings and say goodbye to his former teammates, he was on his way to Cardiff to

start training when the plane disappeared.

The No. 10 Cadillac of Wayne Taylor Racing team won the 24 hours of Daytona endurance race. The team consisted of Fernando Alonso, Jordan Taylor, Roger van der Zande and Kamui Kobayashi.

February News Review

Eight Labour MPs (Chuka Umunna, Luciana Berger, Angela Smith, Chris Leslie, Gavin Shuker, Ann Coffey, Mike Gapes and Joan Ryan) leave the Labour Party stating Jeremy Corbyn's leadership and the anti-semitism within the party as their reasons

for leaving. Three Conservative MPs (Anna Soubry, Sarah Wollaston and Heidi Allen) also resigned from their party citing Brexit and the Conservative Party's adoption of some UKIP policies as reasons for leaving. The eleven MP's all joined together to form a new Independent Party. A ninth Labour MP, Ian Austin, also quit the Labour party due to anti-Semitism in the party, however, he did not join the Independent Party.

The UK and Switzerland signed a trade 'continuity agreement'. It ensures the current trade-relations between the countries will be maintained after Brexit. Approximately £32bn in trade is done between

Britain and Switzerland. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un met for a second time. It was widely reported that President Trump had left the meeting and that the summit was abruptly ended. The White House stated that no deal had been reached regarding sanctions on North Korea's nuclear weapon sanctions and with regards to relations between the two countries.

Pope Francis acknowledges in a statement that some Bishops and Priests have been sexually abusing Nuns. The pontiff said the Church was aware and attempting to address the

problem.

The location of the magnetic North Pole was updated a year early due to rapid movement. The pole has moved towards Siberia from the Canadian Arctic and is currently moving at a rate of 34 miles per year.

Honda confirmed that the rumours were true and that it would close its car plant in Swindon in 2021. The company blamed tough emissions regulations and a slowdown in diesel car sales as the reasoning behind the decision. It is expected that approximately 3,500 jobs will be lost when the plant closes.

The Megachile Pluto, the world's largest bee, is seen in Indonesia. No sighting of the rare species had been confirmed since 1981.

The 91st Academy Awards (Oscars) took place in Los Angeles. The Best Picture award

went to the film Green Book, Best Actress went to Olivia Coleman for her role as Anne Queen of Great Britain in The Favourite. Best Actor was won by Rami Malek for his portrayal of Freddie Mercury in Bohemian Rhapsody and the Best Director award went to Alfonso Cuarón for the direction of the film Roma.

February Sports Review

Manchester City beat Chelsea in the League Cup Final. After 120 minutes the game was still 0-0 with City winning after penalties. The big talking point was Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga's refusal to come off the

pitch when manager Maurizio Sarri tried to substitute the player.

Manchester City also finished the month top of the Premier League table after Liverpool dropped points.

The 53rd Superbowl took place in Atlanta and saw the New England Patriots lift the Vince Lombardi trophy after they beat the Los Angeles Rams 13-3. The win saw Patriots quarterback Tom Brady win his sixth Super Bowl winners ring, the most any player has ever won.

North and South Korea stated they will bid to joint-host the 2032 Summer Olympic Games. The two countries also

announced they would like to field unified teams in some sports and march jointly at the 2020 Summer Olympics.

Team LeBron beat Team Giannis 178-164 in the NBA All-Star game. Kevin Durant won MVP for the second time, his first was in 2012.

March News Review

The following Brexit news is all written in chronological order. The UK Parliament rejected PM Theresa May's Brexit deal by 149 votes. The Parliament then voted against a no-deal Brexit. This then led to an extension being issued to the EU, who granted the UK until 22 May if Theresa May's

deal is passed. If her deal is not passed the UK has until 12 April to decide if it will participate in EU elections. One million Britons attended a People's Vote March in London to request a second referendum. Theresa May said that if her deal were to be passed she would then resign. Prime Minister May suffered a defeat on her withdrawal agreement the day the UK had been scheduled to leave the EU. European Council President Donald Tusk scheduled an emergency summit for April 10th two days before the UK is now scheduled to leave the EU.

At least 50 people were killed and many others were injured after an attack on two mosques during Friday prayers in Christchurch, New Zealand. The attacks were live streamed on Facebook by the perpetrator. A 28-year-old Australian man who is believed to be a white supremacist was arrested and charged with

murder. New Zealand has said it will ban semi-automatic weapons and Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern has vowed to never speak the attackers' name so he will not gain notoriety.

The increase in knife crime raised concerns again with the number of incidents reported so far in 2019 becoming worryingly high with over 20 stabbings having been reported in London alone. Recent Ministry of Justice figures showed the number of criminals caught with dangerous weapons had reached its highest level in nearly 10 years. Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said there was a correlation

between cuts in police and youth services and violent crime.

Shares in Boeing crashed after a Boeing 737, one of the company's best-selling planes, crashed. It was the second 737 to crash in less than five months. Countries and airlines around the world grounded Boeing 737s until further notice. Boeing announced it would release a software update within weeks.

The reputed New York mob boss Frank Cali is shot dead outside his home in Staten Island, New York City. This is the first assassination of a New York City mob boss since 1985 when Paul Castellano

was killed. Police arrested a 24-year-old man in connection to the shooting and are exploring 'multiple angles' as to why the murder occurred.

The Walt Disney Company completed its acquisition of 21st Century Fox's TV and film assets. The newly formed Fox Corporation still owns the business, broadcasting network, news and sports assets.

March Sports Review

Roger Federer won his 100th ATP tour title after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Dubai Tennis Championship. He becomes only the second male tennis player in the Open Era,

after Jimmy Connors, to win 100 ATP singles titles.

In the Champions League; Real Madrid, who had dominated European football over recent years, were beaten 5-3 on aggregate by Ajax in the last sixteen. Manchester United also beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 in Paris overturning a 2-0 deficit to advance to the quarter-finals.

Conor McGregor announced his retirement from Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). The 30-year-old and former two-weight UFC world champion announced he would retire from MMA through a post on twitter. Following the post, rumours began to swirl as to whether it is actually true or whether it is a publicity stunt. At the time of writing, there is no proof to suggest McGregor is not retired.

END

10 year olds in the UK have consumed 18 years' worth of sugar

PHE launches new Change4Life campaign to help families cut back on sugar.

Children have already exceeded the maximum recommended sugar intake for an 18 year old by the time they reach their tenth birthday, according to Public Health England (PHE). This is based on their total sugar consumption from the age of 2.

This figure comes as a new Change4Life campaign launched 2nd January 2019, supporting families to cut back on sugar and to help tackle growing rates of childhood obesity.

While children's sugar intakes have declined slightly in recent years, they are still consuming around 8 excess sugar cubes each day, equivalent to around 2,800 excess sugar cubes per year.

To help parents manage this, Change4Life is encouraging them to 'Make a swap when you next shop'. Making simple everyday swaps can reduce children's sugar intake from some products (yoghurts, drinks and breakfast cereals) by half – while giving them healthier versions of the foods and drinks they enjoy.

Parents can try swapping:

- a higher-sugar yoghurt (for example split-pot) for a lower sugar one, to halve their sugar intake from 6 cubes of sugar to 3
- a sugary juice drink for a no-added sugar juice drink, to cut back from 2 cubes to half a cube
- a higher-sugar breakfast cereal (such as a frosted or chocolate cereal) for a lower sugar cereal, to cut back from 3 cubes to half



a cube per bowl

While some foods and drinks remain high in sugar, many companies have reformulated products such as yoghurts, breakfast cereals and juice drinks, meaning these swaps are a good place for families to start.

Making these swaps every day could remove around 2,500 sugar cubes per year from a child's diet, but swapping chocolate, puddings, sweets, cakes and pastries for healthier options such as malt loaf, sugar-free jellies, lower-

sugar custards and rice puddings would reduce their intake even more.

Severe obesity in 10 to 11 year olds has now reached an all-time high. Overweight or obese children are more likely to be overweight or obese as adults, increasing their risk of heart disease and some cancers, while more young people than ever are developing Type 2 diabetes. Excess sugar can also lead to painful tooth decay, bullying and low self-esteem in childhood.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/sugar/sugar-swaps-for-kids>

UK tests self-driving Martian robots

Testing in the Sahara Desert of UK software for an autonomous Martian robot has now completed, with the robot travelling over 1.4km without human interaction.

As far as we know, Mars is the only planet populated entirely by robots! Due to the time taken for commands to travel to Mars (eight minutes each way), hand guided robots are limited to travelling only a few dozen metres a day.

New software developed in the UK will change this, enabling future Mars rovers to make their own decisions about where to go and how to get there, driving up to a kilometre per day so delivering more scientific returns per mission.

The UK is a world leader in robotics and the government is working

with business and academia to encourage further investments in the technology as part of the modern Industrial Strategy.

Catherine Mealing-Jones, Director of Growth at the UK Space Agency, said:

“Mars is a very difficult planet to land safely on, so it’s essential to maximise the discoveries from each

successful touchdown.

“New autonomous robot technology like this will help to further unlock Mars’ mysteries and I’m delighted that the UK is a key player in this cutting-edge field.”

Companies and universities from around the UK including Airbus Defence & Space, Thales Alenia Space, Scisys, King’s



The new autonomous systems were tested in December in the Sahara Desert on a four-wheeled rover called ‘Sherpa’. Credit: European Space Agency

College London, the University of Strathclyde, and GMV-UK participated in the software testing at Ibn Battuta Test Centre in Morocco in December.

Over the course of a month the team, consisting of engineers from companies all across Europe was co-ordinated by representatives from the UK Space Agency as well as the German, French, Spanish, Italian and European Space Agencies (ESA). They tested a variety of new technologies, including data fusion systems, a plug-and-play sensor suite and an open-source operating system for robotic control.

Airbus in Stevenage is the prime contractor for the new ESA Exomars rover, due to land on Mars in 2020. Following a public competition last year, the UK Space Agency will announce the name of the new UK-built rover this spring.

The UK Space Agency is the second largest European contributor to ExoMars, having invested €287 million in the mission and £14 million on the instruments. This, in addition to successful negotiations with ESA, secured key mission contracts for the UK space sector.

Scotland's 'lost generation' of teachers highlights retention problem (Scottish Conservatives)

Scotland's schools are currently experiencing a 'lost generation', as teachers between the ages of 43 and 60 are leaving the profession in droves, removing significant experience from schools and classrooms.

Figures collated by the Scottish Conservatives show that between 2004 and 2018 the number of teachers has fallen by almost 4,000.

However, while there are increases among most of the other age groups, the 43 to 60 year old age range has decreased by 12,896 over the same period, highlighting a dramatic loss of experience in schools.

This week the Scottish Conservatives will be focusing on the problems that continue to face Scottish schools, despite the SNP's claim that

education is their 'number one priority.'

The statistics show that the number of 20-30 year old teachers have increased by over 3,000, and the number of 30 – 40 year old teachers have increased by 4848, since 2004.

Over the same period, the number of 51 year olds within the system has reduced by 1438.

The Scottish Conservatives are concerned that this exodus is removing significant teaching experience from the classroom and from other, newer teachers. It also highlights a profound retention issue.

Scottish Conservative shadow education secretary Liz Smith said;

"These statistics are deeply worrying in terms of the numbers of the most

Scottish Conservative shadow education secretary Liz Smith



experienced teachers leaving the profession and leaving it early.

"Most worrying are the high numbers leaving in their early fifties when, in previous generations, there was a much higher rate of retention.

"It is this retention issue which is as much a concern as the fall in the number of teachers in our schools which has taken place while the SNP has been in power.

"There are some encouraging signs of increased recruitment in

the younger years but that does not compensate for the huge loss of older and more experienced teachers.

"This loss ties in with the difficulties of recruiting heads and deputy heads – something that is worrying both local authorities and the teaching unions.

"There is a clear need for the SNP to investigate why older teachers are leaving the profession, and taking with them much needed experience, and tackle this growing problem.

"So much for Nicola Sturgeon's top priority.

"The SNP must reduce the burdens on teachers and focus on retaining more of these teachers which would in itself tackle the current teacher deficit."



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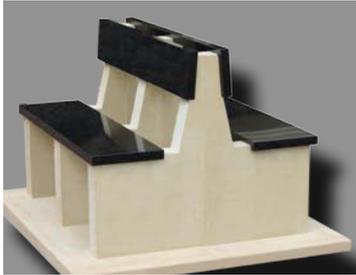


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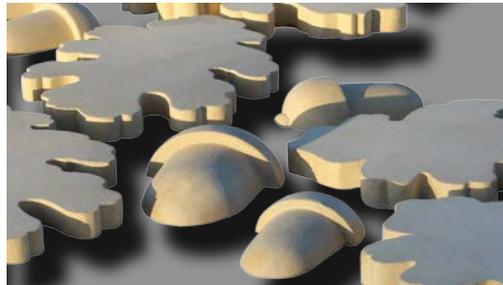
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Movement restrictions introduced to protect UK against tree pest

New measures brought in after larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) was found in Kent

New measures are being introduced on the 16th January to protect the country against the tree pest known as the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*), which was discovered in Kent in December 2018.

Legislation is being laid in Parliament that will restrict the movement of all susceptible material, including trees and wood with bark, within 50km of the outbreak sites where *Ips typographus* was found.

This legislation is a

necessary precaution to prevent the spread of the pest further afield and will remain in place until further notice, but will be kept under review.

The exact boundaries of the restricted area and details of the materials under restriction are available on the Forestry Commission website.

Industry are also urged to remain vigilant for signs of the pest and to report any suspicions to the Forestry Commission.

Nicola Spence, the UK Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

“The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) poses no

threat to human health, but it can be a serious pest to the spruce tree species and the forestry industry.

“That is why we are taking robust action through this new legislation and its

restriction of movement for spruce trees in a 50km area around the outbreak.

“I encourage anyone who suspects a sighting of the bark beetle to report these to the Forestry Commission online through Tree Alert.”



The larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*). Credit: Forestry Commission



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Antimicrobial resistance: UK launches 5-year action plan and 20-year vision

Image attribution: [Dr Graham Beards at en.wikipedia](#)



Antibiotic resistance tests; the bacteria in the culture on the left are sensitive to the antibiotics contained in the white paper discs. The bacteria on the right are resistant to most of the antibiotics

The government has published a 20-year vision and 5-year national action plan for how the UK will contribute to containing and controlling AMR by 2040.

- The plans include targets, such as:
- cutting the number of drug-resistant infections by 10%

(5,000 infections) by 2025

- reducing the use of antibiotics in humans by 15%
- preventing at least 15,000 patients from contracting infections as a result of their healthcare each year by 2024

A major focus of the plan is to

make sure current antibiotics stay effective by reducing the number of resistant infections and supporting clinicians to prescribe appropriately.

New technology will also be used to gather real-time patient data, helping clinicians understand when to use and preserve antibiotics in their treatment. This could

be followed and adapted all over the world, building the database on antibiotic use and resistance.

The plans cover animals and the environment as well as human health. The government has committed to working with vets and farmers to further reduce antibiotic use in animals by 25% between 2016 and 2020, with objectives to be refreshed by 2021.

The pharmaceutical industry will also be expected to take more responsibility for antibiotic resistance. NICE and NHS England will explore a new payment model that pays pharmaceutical companies based on how valuable their medicines are to the NHS, rather than on the quantity of antibiotics sold.

Antibiotic resistance is predicted to kill 10 million people every year by 2050 without action, as outlined in the independent review on antimicrobial resistance. Without effective antibiotics, straightforward, everyday operations like caesarean sections or hip replacements could become too dangerous to perform.

Since 2014, the UK has cut the amount of antibiotics it uses by more than 7% and sales of antibiotics for use in food-producing animals have dropped by 40%. But the number of drug-resistant bloodstream infections have increased by 35% from 2013 to 2017.

New Northern Powerhouse Partners unite for ‘Cumbria Day’



The Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme has welcomed 3 new members from Cumbria.

The Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme has welcomed 3 new members from Cumbria, as the region marks ‘Cumbria Day’.

Energus, based at Lillyhall, is a world-class training provider based in West Cumbria. The company manages programmes of training and education ensuring a talent pipeline of graduates and apprentices into a range of organisations.

Cumbria Tourism is

the official destination management organisation for the Lake District. Its mission is to create a world-beating visitor experience. With their ambition and enthusiasm to share their knowledge about the county with visitors they are helping to boost the tourism sector in the region.

The University of Cumbria was formed in 2007 by the merger of St Martin’s College, Cumbria Institute of the Arts and University of Central Lancashire’s Cumbria sites. As a significant and sought after institution for Cumbria

and North Lancashire, the University works in partnerships to develop the region’s talent and capabilities and attract new talent into the region to study and work and live.

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry MP, said:

“I’m delighted to welcome these 3 trailblazing organisations to our rapidly growing Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme. In Energus, Cumbria Tourism and the University of Cumbria, we have 3 innovative and dynamic partners who I am proud to work hand-in-

hand with to promote the economic strengths of our region and Cumbria’s integral contribution to the Northern Powerhouse.”

Managing Director of Cumbria Tourism, Gill Haigh, said:

“As an organisation, we are immensely proud to be part of the Northern Powerhouse Partners Programme and to promote some thriving Cumbrian businesses to decision-makers at the heart of government. Cumbria is a unique and diverse county with a £2.9 billion tourism sector and is a vital part of the wider Northern economy. Cumbria Day is our chance to showcase the very best of what we have to offer to businesses, visitors and residents alike.”



UK loses £190bn a year to fraud and cyber crime

According to the Annual Fraud Indicator published by the UK Fraud Costs Measurement Committee, the UK economy lost an astonishing estimated £190 billion to fraud and cyber crime in 2017.

This shocking figure can be broken down into the following:

- Private sector fraud losses: £140 billion
- Public sector fraud losses: £40.4 billion
- Charities and charitable trust losses: £2.3 billion
- Frauds directly against individuals: £6.8 billion

This represents more than

the UK Government spends on health and defence combined and equates to around £10,000 per family in the UK.

Even more worrying is that these estimates may be conservative given that many organisations and individuals prefer

not to report their losses to fraud for personal or commercially sensitive reasons. People can feel embarrassed and ashamed about being defrauded, companies may decide to write off the loss to avoid any reputational damage if the fraud went public.

Protect yourself

Online fraud is now the most common

Government announces new plans to protect treasure finds

New plans will redefine treasure and prevent sale of unreported finds.

Plans to widen the definition of treasure so more archaeological finds can be protected for the nation have been outlined by the government.

Heritage Minister Michael Ellis announced proposals that would allow more artefacts to be acquired by local and national museums and put on public display.

Under the plans, the definition will be changed so that finds worth more than £10,000 will be considered treasure and made available for acquisition by museums.

Currently artefacts over 300 years old, made of gold or silver or found with artefacts made of precious metals where an owner cannot be found, can be officially designated as treasure, and therefore become the property of the Crown.

Treasure is then offered to local or national museums for public display.

Each year, dozens of items of national importance are believed to be lost to private sellers because they do not meet the treasure criteria or are sold by those who do not declare the find.

These include the 1,700 year old Roman era Crosby Garrett helmet that was found by a metal detectorist in 2010. Despite its archaeological importance, because the helmet was made of a copper alloy it did not meet the treasure criteria and was sold to a private collector for £2.3 million.

The proposals are to be consulted on and aim to clarify, improve and streamline the process for reporting treasure to ensure that museums can continue to acquire important finds for the nation.

There are currently no

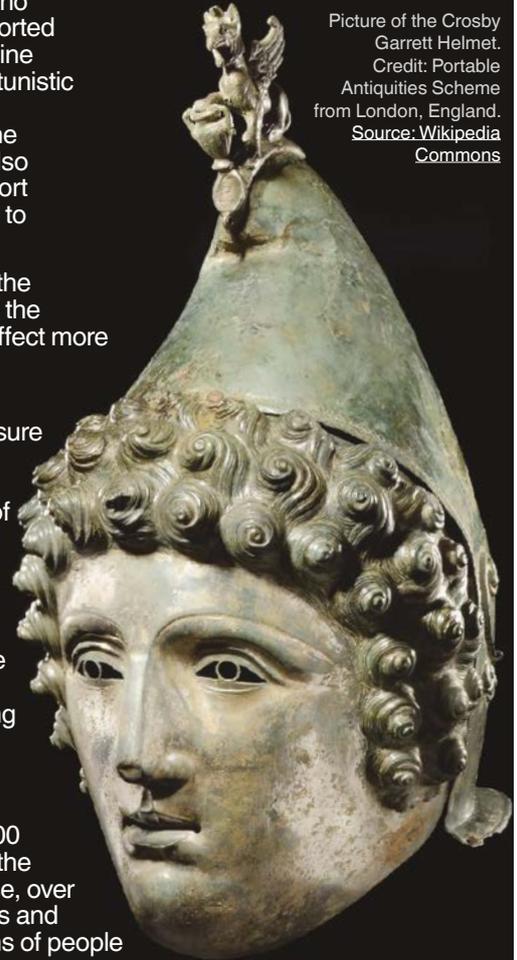
sanctions on someone who knowingly buys an unreported find and the growth in online markets has given opportunistic finders an outlet to sell unreported finds under the radar. The changes will also mean that the duty to report treasure will be extended to those acquiring it.

The measures would be the first major changes since the Treasure Act came into effect more than 20 years ago.

More items than ever are being discovered by treasure seekers across England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the number of finds increasing by over 1,500% since 1996.

The latest figures show that 2017 was a record-breaking year for treasure finds with a total of 1,267 items unearthed, including ancient Roman statues, Bronze Age rings and a Stuart pocket watch.

In the last 20 years, 13,000 finds have gone through the treasure process. Of these, over 30% are now in museums and can be enjoyed by millions of people each year.



Picture of the Crosby Garrett Helmet.
Credit: Portable Antiquities Scheme from London, England.
[Source: Wikipedia Commons](#)

Name of British built Mars rover revealed

The UK made ExoMars rover, due to roam the surface of the red planet in 2021, has been named after UK scientist and co-discoverer of the structure of DNA - Rosalind Franklin.

Over a third of the science instruments used in the ExoMars mission are led by women.

The UK Space Agency is the second largest European contributor to the ESA-Roscosmos ExoMars mission, having invested €287 million in the mission and £14 million on the instruments. This, in addition to successful negotiations with ESA, secured key mission contracts for the UK space sector.

‘Rosalind Franklin’ was chosen by a panel of experts from a shortlist submitted by the public, following a naming competition opened in July last year in which nearly 36,000 people

responded. Competition entrants that guessed the final name were invited to the naming ceremony at Airbus where they met astronaut Tim Peake and had a tour of the facility.

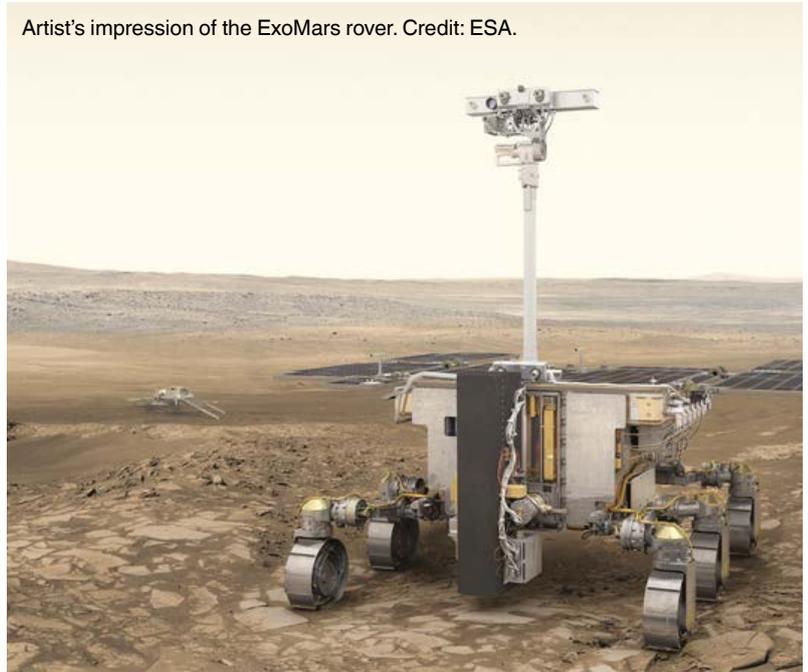
Tim Peake, British ESA Astronaut said:

“This rover will scout the Martian surface equipped with next-generation instruments – a fully-fledged automated laboratory on Mars. With it, we are building on our European heritage in robotic exploration, and at the same time devising new technologies.”

In November experts meeting at the National Space Centre in Leicester chose Oxia Planum near the Martian equator as the landing site for Rosalind due to its geology and the likelihood of finding signs of life.

The Government’s modern Industrial Strategy is backing businesses to succeed by

Artist’s impression of the ExoMars rover. Credit: ESA.



increasing investment in science, because countries that invest in ideas create more opportunities for business. The ambition is for the UK be the world’s most innovative economy – and the development of the ExoMars rover for the UK is a part of this ambition.

Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958)

Rosalind Elsie Franklin was a British biophysicist, physicist, chemist, biologist and X-ray crystallographer who made contributions to the understanding of the fine molecular structures of DNA, RNA, viruses, coal and graphite. She went to Newnham College, Cambridge in 1938 and passed her finals in 1941, but was only awarded a degree titular as women were not entitled to degrees at that time. She received a PhD from Ohio University in 1945.

UK Government delivers further devolution to Scotland

The Scottish Secretary, David Mundell, brings the final uncommenced section of the Scotland Act 2016 into force

The UK Government has handed over the last of the powers which the Scotland Act 2016 transfers to the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Secretary David Mundell welcomed the significant landmark which means Holyrood can now legislate in every area where the Scotland Act 2016 has given it power to do so –



Scottish Secretary David Mundell
Credit: Chris McAndrew via Wikipedia

reinforcing its standing as one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world.

The Act, delivered the recommendation of the cross-party Smith Commission, which was established following the 2014 Scottish independence referendum. Significant powers already devolved to the Scottish Parliament include £12 billion worth of income tax and £2.9 billion worth of welfare.

The Scottish Secretary said:

“In the 2014 independence referendum Scotland voted decisively to remain in the UK and the UK Government has respected that decision by honouring our commitment to deliver further powers for the



The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. Credit: Klaus with K via Wikipedia

Scottish Parliament on the recommendations of the Smith Commission.

“As a passionate supporter of devolution I was proud to lead the Scotland Act 2016 through the UK Parliament to Royal Assent. It is a truly significant milestone that all sections of the Act are now in force, reinforcing Holyrood’s position as one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world.

“More than 20 years on

from the first Scotland Act gaining Royal Assent in 1998, devolution is working well. So I urge the Scottish Government to take the threat of another, divisive, independence referendum off the table and work with us in exercising their extensive powers for the good of Scotland.”

Section 27 of the Scotland Act 2016 devolves legislative competence to the Scottish Parliament for Welfare Foods schemes. The UK and Scottish Governments are working together to agree on a timescale for the transfer of powers relating to these schemes.



Ben Collins as the 'Stig'
Credit: nahtanoj via Wikipedia

'Don't be a Space Invader' - says former 'Stig' Ben Collins



'Stay safe, stay back' is the message from professional racing driver and Hollywood stunt expert Ben Collins to help remind drivers of the dangers of tailgating.

Ben – best known for his role on BBC motoring show TopGear as the 'tame' racing driver in the white suit – has coached hundreds of celebrities from Tom Cruise to Lionel Ritchie around the race-track, and is also a championship winning Le Mans racing driver.

But today his focus was on the drivers travelling on England's motorways and major A-roads every day,

and a message to them about the risks of driving too close to the vehicle in front.

He said:

"I discovered the dangers of tailgating at a very early age - in an overly enthusiastic game of musical chairs. The music stopped. So did the kid in front of me. But I didn't. I face-planted the back of his head instead.

"Following the vehicle in front too closely reduces your vision to zero, along with your time to react to danger. Stay safe, stay back and look ahead."

Statistics show that one in eight of all road casualties

are caused by people who drive too close to the vehicle in front, with more than 100 people killed or seriously injured each year.

Nearly 9 out of 10 people say they have either been tailgated or seen it. And more than a quarter of drivers admitted to tailgating.

While a small minority of tailgating is deliberate, most is unintentional by drivers who are simply unaware they are dangerously invading someone else's space.

Last September, Highways England launched a campaign featuring the well-known Space Invader video

game character to alert drivers to the anti-social nature and risks of tailgating.

A survey by the company revealed that tailgating is the biggest single bugbear that drivers have about other road users. And in-car research - using dashcams, facial recognition, emotion tracking and heart monitors - reveals that a driver's typical reaction to someone who tailgates them is surprise, anger and contempt, with a spike in heart rate.

A host of companies have already backed the 'stay safe, stay back' campaign, including National Express, which is carrying the message on some of its long-distance coaches. Other advocates include the RAC, National Police Chiefs Council, leading road safety bodies Brake and the Institute for Advanced Motorists, and Thatcham.

February

UK aid helps stop 750 pieces of illegal ivory being smuggled from South Sudan into Uganda

Thanks to technology funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Ugandan Revenue Authority has made one of the largest seizures of wildlife contraband the country has ever seen.

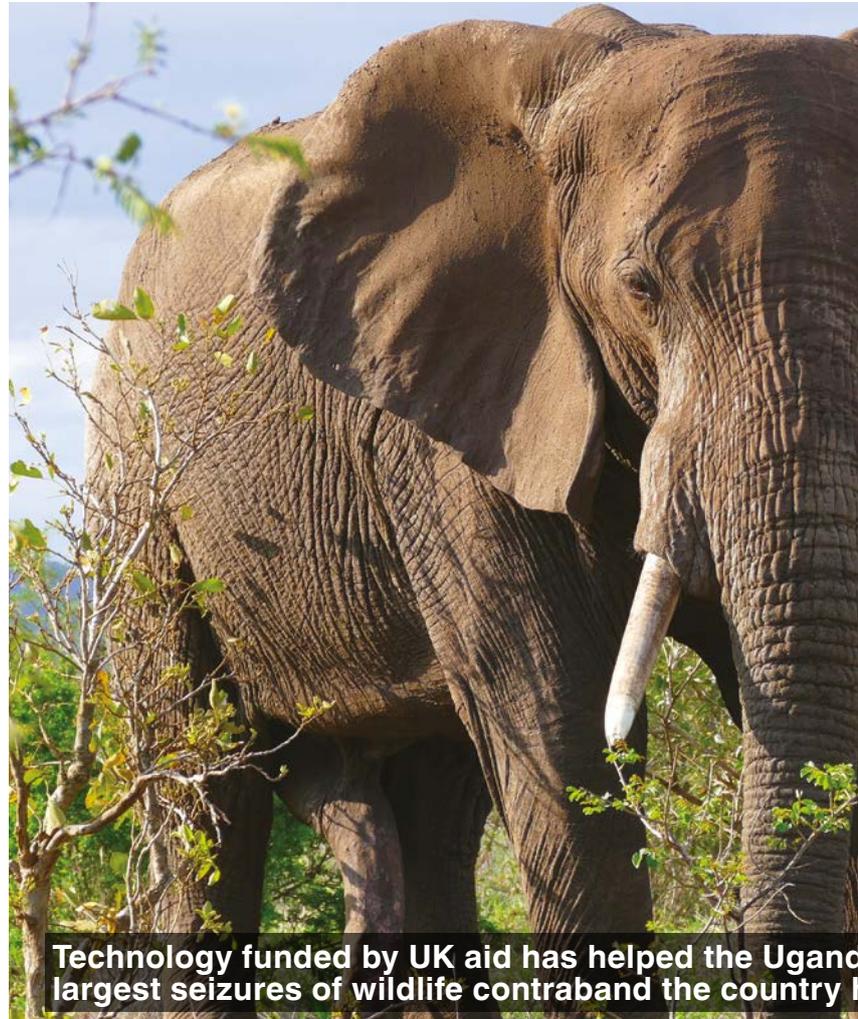
Customs officers in the Northern Ugandan town of Elegu, on the border with South Sudan, seized an estimated 750 pieces of ivory and thousands of pangolin scales, which have a street value of more than £6 million. This enabled a security operation culminating in the arrest of two suspected Vietnamese smugglers.

The software – funded through UK aid - enabled customs officers to profile

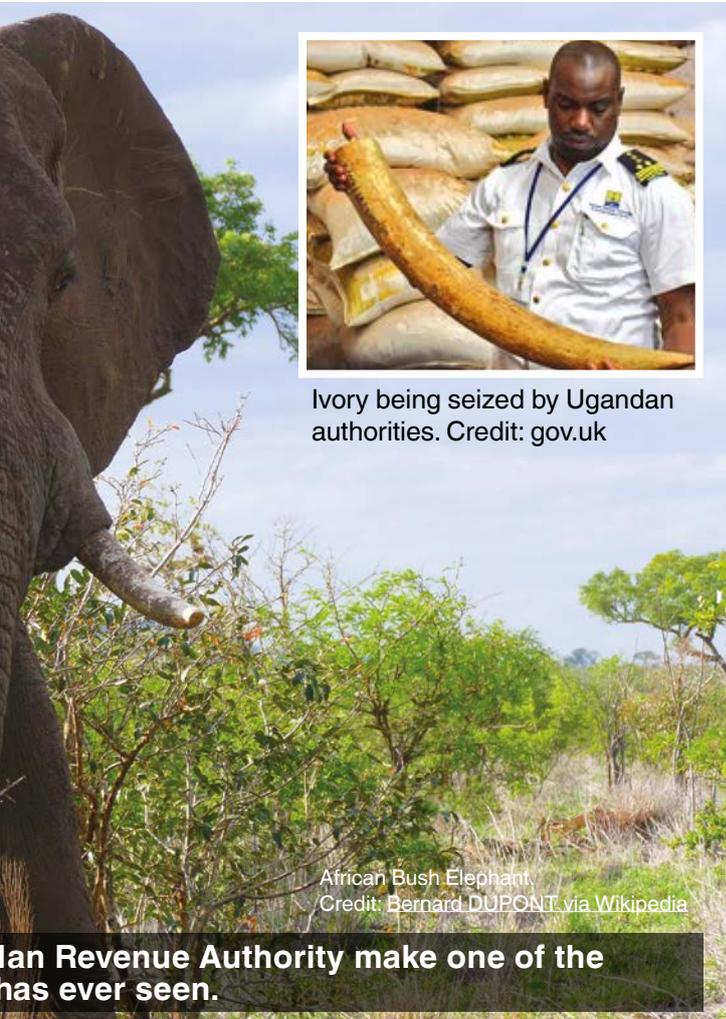
and scan the cargo which helped to uncover three containers holding the illegal wildlife goods, which the Ugandan Tax Authority estimates killed at least 325 elephants, and thousands of pangolins.

Ugandan customs officers were able to show how logs had been hollowed out and filled with the illegal wildlife goods. The smugglers poured wax inside to make the logs appear hollow and resealed them.

Aside from tackling the illegal wildlife trade, infrastructure at the border provided by UK aid can also help stop other illicit items from crossing borders.



Technology funded by UK aid has helped the Uganda largest seizures of wildlife contraband the country



Ivory being seized by Ugandan authorities. Credit: gov.uk

African Bush Elephant.
Credit: Bernard DUPONT via Wikipedia

Kenyan Revenue Authority make one of the largest seizures ever seen.

Harriett Baldwin, Minister of State for Africa said:

“This seizure is another example of how UK aid is helping countries to crack down on the illegal ivory trade.”

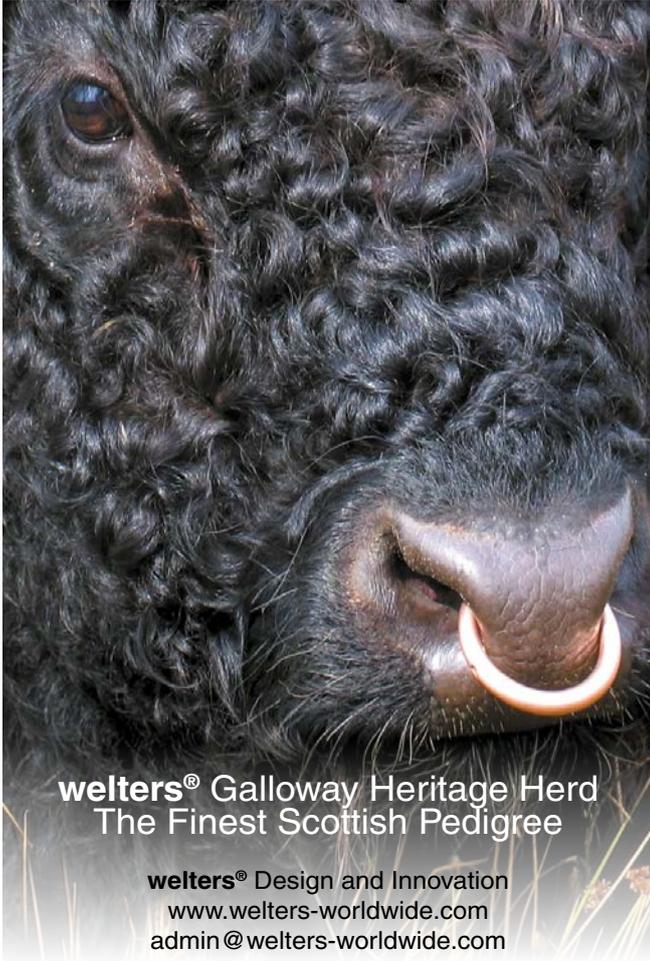
“Wildlife crime robs communities of their natural resources and livelihoods while deepening poverty and inequality. The UK Government will continue working with our African partners to tackle the underlying issues driving this trade.”

Elephants are one of the most poached mammals for their tusks, but Pangolins (Olugave) are even more sort after for their scales which hold medicinal value in parts of Asia.

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) presents a persistent

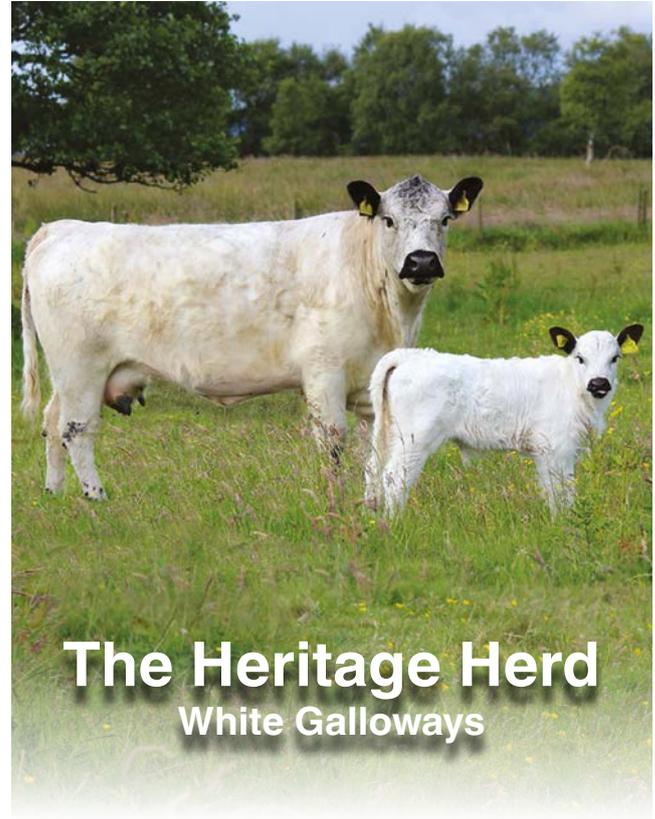
problem across Africa with an estimated 100,000 pangolins trafficked from Africa to Asia every year and Tanzania losing 60% of its elephants in half a decade. IWT negatively impacts state revenue, economies, and local communities with more than £70bn per year lost due to crimes affecting natural resources. It is one of the most lucrative forms of trafficking along with drugs and weapons.

By working with affected governments wildlife can be used as an engine for tourism, job creation and sustainable development. DFID is helping to tackle the underlying issues driving the trade. Last October we announced £6 million to protect iconic and endangered species including rhinos, elephants and pangolins. We are also introducing innovative new farming techniques and climate-smart crops which provide far more yield – providing sustainable, more lucrative alternatives to poaching.



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F D Welters Ltd - a legacy of influence



In 1951, F D Welters Ltd were at the forefront of a minor revolution in the transportation of new furniture items.

Previously, this service was carried out by the Road Haulage Executive, a postwar publicly owned organisation which had nationalised much of the

prewar transportation firms operating nationally at the time, with Pickfords being assigned specifically for the purpose of furniture transportation. This had garnered strong criticism from the furniture industry and most notably the British Furniture Manufacturers Association,

who proceeded to set up a joint committee between the RHE and the BFM with a view to having more control over conditions of carriage and charges. The pressure applied by the BFM on behalf of the Industry resulted in an initial allocation of revised regional responsibilities,

which was followed by further deregulation to allow manufacturers the freedom to manage their own transportation. As a member and being on the committee for the BFM at the time, F D Welters Ltd provided their support in this change, which encouraged further dismantling of the Government controlled RHE, paving the way for privatisation across the road haulage network.

Ancient migration mystery could be solved after eels fitted with satellite tags

A team of researchers, led by the Environment Agency, may be close to solving one of science's most enduring mysteries – where does the European Eel spawn and what migration route do they follow to get there?

The life-cycle of the eel has been a mystery since at least the 4th century BC when even Aristotle pondered the question of where they came from.

Prehistoric and snakelike in appearance, the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. Where eels spawn is still unknown, unravelling this mystery will be crucial to further understanding of the

biology of the species and to protect spawning areas.

Now researchers - led by the Environment Agency together with the University of the Azores, ZSL (Zoological Society of London), Defra, Cefas, the University of Hull and DTU-Aqua - took a big step towards solving the mystery when they located European eel populations on the Azores Islands, close to the last known point on the eel migration route tracked by previous projects.

Three eels large enough to carry satellite tags were captured in a small river on the island of San Miguel following an intensive netting program conducted from October to December 2018.

In December 2018 the eels were fitted with satellite tags and released from a sandy beach into the Atlantic Ocean to begin their epic migration.

The tags are programmed to detach after 8 months so the eels have until around July 2019 to get to the Sargasso Environment Agency project lead and researcher Ros Wright said:

“The European Eel is critically endangered so it

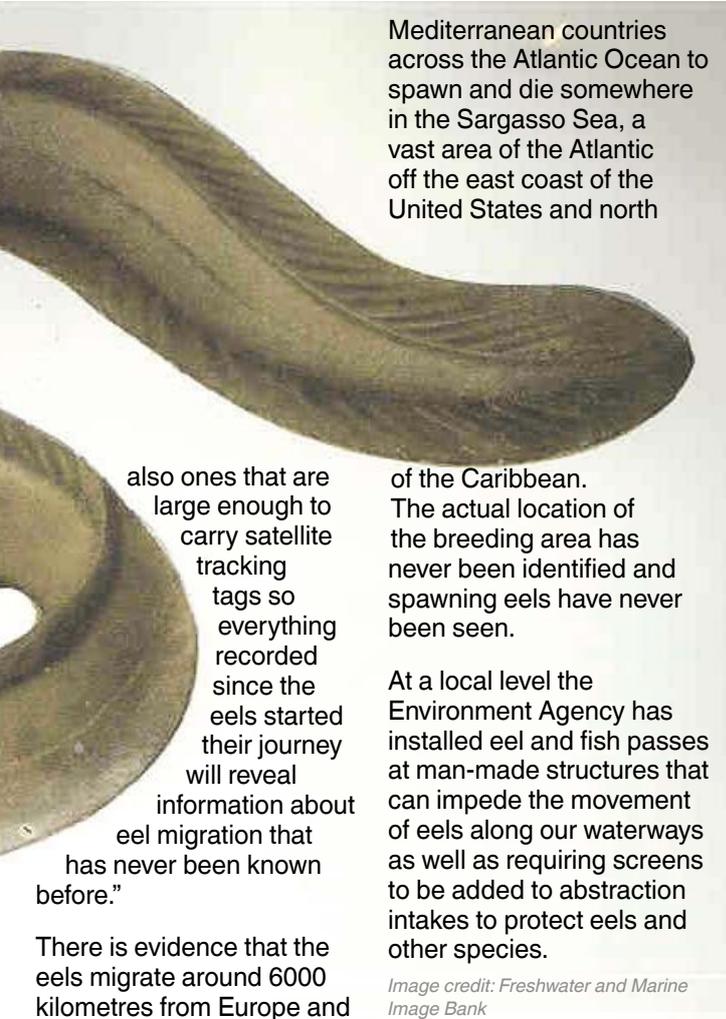
is important that we solve the mystery surrounding their complete life-cycle

to support efforts to protect the spawning area of this mysterious species.

“Migrating eels are driven to travel vast distances by an innate desire to spawn. We hope that at least one of these three satellite tagged eels will become a superhero to the species by completing the migration lifecycle giving agencies and conservationists around the world the clues needed to protect this iconic species.

“This is the first time we've been able to capture eels in the Azores and





Mediterranean countries across the Atlantic Ocean to spawn and die somewhere in the Sargasso Sea, a vast area of the Atlantic off the east coast of the United States and north

also ones that are large enough to carry satellite tracking tags so everything recorded since the eels started their journey will reveal information about eel migration that has never been known before.”

of the Caribbean. The actual location of the breeding area has never been identified and spawning eels have never been seen.

At a local level the Environment Agency has installed eel and fish passes at man-made structures that can impede the movement of eels along our waterways as well as requiring screens to be added to abstraction intakes to protect eels and other species.

Image credit: Freshwater and Marine Image Bank

There is evidence that the eels migrate around 6000 kilometres from Europe and

welters® supporting the ICCM

welters® are pleased to offer their long and continued support to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) which has already exceeded 20 years.

been faithfully supporting the ICCM without fail every year since the early 1990's.

Keith said

“It has been an eventful journey over the years and I am glad to be contributing to such an important organisation within the Industry”

Keith Welters, CEO of Welters Organisation Worldwide has



Keith Welters with Julie Dunk, Chief Exec of ICCM

Gove unveils new covenants to protect nature



Conservation covenants will unleash a new wave of legal safeguards for England's wildlife and natural environment, subject to a consultation launched by Environment Secretary Michael Gove.

The government is seeking views on how best to introduce conservation covenants, fulfilling a commitment made in the 25 Year Environment Plan. They are voluntary but legally-binding agreements which enable landowners to leave a permanent conservation legacy on their land for

future generations.

The covenants, already used successfully in other countries, would allow landowners to make a public commitment to take positive actions to preserve and improve treasured features on their land such as trees, woodland or flower-rich meadow. They would be binding on future owners of the land and would be overseen by responsible bodies to ensure land management obligations are delivered.

Environment Secretary, Michael Gove said:

“Conservation covenants are a valuable new tool to help protect our precious countryside. They allow landowners to safeguard nature on their land, securing long-term benefits and enabling vital investment in future conservation.

“These plans are a further step in our ambition to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it. I urge people to have their say on the proposals, which we are considering for our forthcoming Environment Bill.”

Natural England's Interim Chief Executive, Marian Spain, said:

“Natural England has long believed that conservation covenants could be useful for land owners and secure long term environment gains for nature.

“It is pleasing to hear that a number of landowners and farmers are already interested and want to hear more about the Government's proposals.”

Legal covenants already exist to prevent certain types of actions, but by encouraging positive environmental actions, a conservation covenant may achieve a lasting legacy for land management for generations to come.

Strengthened protections for Isles of Scilly seabirds

Natural England announces plans to extend Isles of Scilly Special Protection Area by almost 13,000 hectares.

- New plans to extend Isles of Scilly Special Protection Area
- Thousands of seabirds including Manx shearwaters, European shags and great black-backed gulls are offered greater protection
- Public invited to have a say on proposals

Home to a greater diversity of breeding seabirds than anywhere else in England, the existing Isles of Scilly Special Protection Area (SPA) supports over 8,000 pairs of 13 different seabird species – including the European storm petrel and lesser black-backed gull - and is one of only two places in England where

Manx shearwaters breed.

Natural England has outlined plans to extend the SPA by almost 13,000 hectares, helping maintain healthy and productive breeding colonies for generations to come. The extended boundary now recognises the importance of additional species for the first time, including the European shag and great black-backed gull, and includes not only seabird nesting sites but also nearby sea areas used for feeding, resting, preening and other social interactions.

The Isles of Scilly form an archipelago of over 200 low-lying granite islands and rocks situated in the South-West approaches, 45km South-West of Land's End in Cornwall.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

“Our coastline is home to some of the most magnificent wildlife in the world and we are proud to be a world leader in protecting our



marine environment.

“It is suggested that these new protections will provide thousands of birds on the Isles of Scilly with a safe haven for foraging and feeding, safeguarding

precious marine habitats for future generations. I welcome the consultation and encourage local residents to give their views.”

Special Protection Areas are sites designated to protect populations of rare and vulnerable seabirds from human activity while minimising disturbance to birds' open water feeding areas. There are already 47 such sites designated in English waters.

They are just one type of the many Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in place around the UK to conserve rare, threatened and nationally important habitats and species for future generations.

As part of the government's commitment to becoming a world-leader in marine protection, it has now protected 36 per cent of English waters through the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network, recently held a consultation on designating 41 new Marine Conservation Zones, and has called for a third of the world's oceans to be protected as MPAs by 2030.

Image: Great black-backed gull. Credit: Natural England

Local greenspaces important for children of all ages and backgrounds

Natural England's Monitoring of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) report found that 70% of all children in England under the age of 16, and 64% of young people aged 16-24 are said to be spending time outside at least once a week. However, there are still clear inequalities with children living in lower income areas being less likely to visit the natural environment compared with those living in areas of higher income.

The findings highlight the importance of local greenspaces, including urban parks, recreation grounds and playgrounds for children's play and experience of the natural world. Across all age groups and backgrounds, local greenspaces provide

an important opportunity for children to experience the natural environment on a regular basis, with these spaces becoming even more vital for children who are least likely to visit the natural environment frequently.

This is one of the reasons why Natural England is leading a new cross-government project to review and update standards for green infrastructure, in addition to working with the Parks Action Group, to overcome barriers to access, and to ensure England's public parks and green spaces meet the needs of communities now and in the future.

The government, through its 25 Year Environment Plan, published in January 2018,

has set an ambitious target to improve the environment within a generation, kicking off this target with the launch of the Year of Green Action, focusing on connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. Within this, Government has set out a

range of

commitments to enhance opportunities for children, young people and adults from all backgrounds to engage with the natural world, and to help improve social injustice by opening up the mental and physical

health and wellbeing.

As part of this Plan, Environment Secretary Michael Gove recently announced the Children and Nature Programme, awarding £10 million in funding to help support more children from deprived areas to have the opportunity for experiences in nature within a variety of local natural environments, including school grounds, community forests, woodlands and care farms.

Children are also being encouraged to take part in nature activities through the Department for Education's 'My Activity Passport'. The passport is aimed at primary school children and outlines a range of activities and key milestones for children to take part in within each year of primary school, helping to enrich their experiences. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are also taking action by awarding £9.7 million for local authorities to better maintain, protect and increase their recreational spaces.

March

THINK! campaign introduces the 'Road Whisperer' who says it's OK to be nervous

THINK! campaign introduces the 'Road Whisperer' who says it's OK to be nervous

It is only natural for new drivers to be nervous, but confidence comes with real road experience – that's the message from the Road Whisperer in a new campaign by THINK!.

The Jeff Bridges-style character, with a distinctive southern American drawl, will feature in a series of films and GIFs throughout March to give

new drivers tips that will help them deal with the challenges of driving solo.

Road Safety Minister Jesse Norman said:

“Everyone feels some nerves when they're on the road for the first time, but it takes a good driver to admit it. Confidence comes with time and practice, so it's important to keep learning and build up experience to become a better driver. And that commitment to keep learning is what this THINK! campaign, with its tips

and guidance, aims to create.”

The films will focus on a series of tips relating to situations where new drivers feel vulnerable or have the highest road casualties, including driving at night, and on country roads and motorways.

Advice will also cover tyre safety and looking out for vulnerable road users, and all tips will be delivered in the Road Whisperer's signature style.

The Road Whisperer said:

“We were all fresh to the roads once. When I started out, I was as nervous as they come!

“Young folks need to know it's a long road of learning after you pass your test, so go steady. I didn't learn how to play the guitar like Keith Richards overnight.”

Recent research commissioned by THINK! found that 17-30 year-old male drivers often feel vulnerable on the road, believing that while you only really start to learn how to drive after passing your test, you still need to appear confident in front of other people.

The films, created in partnership with marketing agency VMLY&R, will be broadcast online and on social media during March, while the Night Driving film will also be shown in cinemas.

The New Driver campaign builds on THINK's award-winning 'Mates Matter' campaign – which saw the biggest shift in more than a decade in young men's attitudes towards drink driving. It encourages young men to set new 'man' standards by accepting their inexperience and not giving in to the perceived pressure to perform.

These hard-hitting THINK! campaigns represent just one of the measures the Department for Transport is taking to improve road safety, particularly for younger drivers. Our upcoming road safety action plan will include further details.



PHE launches ‘Cervical Screening Saves Lives’ campaign

Public Health England (PHE) has launched their major new national campaign ‘Cervical Screening Saves Lives’, to increase the number of women attending their cervical screening across England.

The campaign will encourage women to respond to their cervical screening invitation letter, and if they missed their last screening, to book an appointment at their GP practice.

Around 2,600 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in England each year, and around 690 women die from the disease, which is 2 deaths every day. It is estimated that if everyone attended screening regularly, 83% of cervical cancer cases could be prevented.

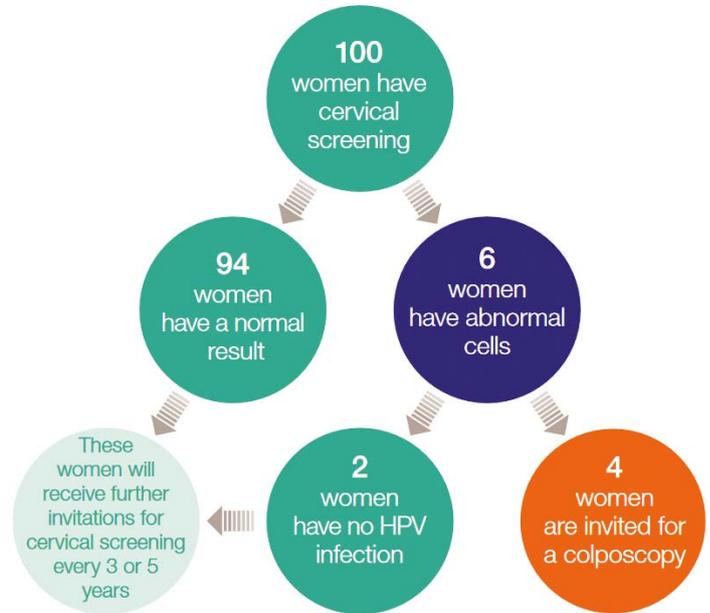
New research from PHE shows that nearly all women eligible for screening (90%) would be likely to take a test that could help prevent cancer - and of those who

have attended screening, 9 in 10 (94%) would encourage others who are worried to attend their cervical screening. Despite this, screening is at a 20-year low, with 1 in 4 eligible women (those aged 25 to 64) in the UK not attending their test.

The new PHE campaign provides practical information about how to make the test more comfortable, and gives reassurance to women, who may be fearful of finding out they have cancer, that screening is not a test for cancer.

Regular screening, which only takes a few minutes, can help stop cervical cancer before it starts, as the test identifies potentially harmful cells before they become cancerous, and ensures women get the right treatment as soon as possible.

The PHE research shows that once they have been screened, the vast majority of women feel positive about the experience, with 8 in 10 (87%)



Out of 100 women who have cervical screening, about 94 will have a normal result. If you have a normal result, you have a very low risk of developing cervical cancer before your next screening test.

stating they are ‘glad they went’ and that they were ‘put at ease by the nurse or doctor doing the test’ (84%).

Professor Anne Mackie, Director of Screening Programmes at PHE said:

“The decline in numbers getting screened for cervical cancer is a major concern as it means millions of women are missing

out on a potentially life-saving test. Two women die every day in England from cervical cancer, yet it is one of the most preventable cancers if caught early.

“We want to see a future generation free of cervical cancer but we will only achieve our vision if women take up their screening invitations. This is a simple test which takes just five minutes and could save your life. It’s just not worth ignoring.

Sellafield's 'locked vault' ready to be emptied



Engineering teams have installed equipment to scoop up and remove material from Sellafield's Pile Fuel Cladding Silo.

Safely decommissioning the 70-year-old facility is one of the highest priorities for Sellafield Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

The building was originally designed to be permanently sealed, meaning innovative ways of accessing and removing its inventory have had to be developed.

The retrievals equipment is contained in 9 huge modules and has been lifted into

place on top of a modern 'superstructure' built on the side of the building.

Waste retrieval trials are expected to begin later this year, moving into larger scale waste removal in 2020.

Kevin Brown, Head of the Pile Fuel Cladding Silo programme at Sellafield Ltd, said:

"The teams are incredibly proud to have completed one of the most complex challenges in the site's history.

"We have opened up a building designed to be sealed forever and engineered a way for getting

the waste out.

"After years of intensive planning, preparation and investment, seeing the retrievals modules in place next to the Pile Fuel Cladding Silo is a huge moment for those involved.

"It has been a real example of collaboration, working together with Bechtel Cavendish Nuclear Solutions to take us one step closer to significantly reducing the UK's nuclear hazard."

The nuclear site is moving into a 100-year programme of environmental remediation, which means speeding up the decommissioning of old facilities and moving the waste into safe containment for centuries to come.

The Pile Fuel Cladding Silo was built in the 1950s when the site's purpose was to make material for nuclear weapons.

In 2016, six holes were cut into the side of the silo, the

first breaking of the structure since it was built.

Six giant steel doors were then installed to provide a safe barrier between the outside world and the waste inside the silo, until it starts to be removed by the 'grabbing' machine.

To remove the waste, a crane will extend through the hole in the side of the silo, a grabber will be lowered to scoop the waste up, the grabber then lifts and retreats back through the hole before depositing the waste in a specially-designed metal box, for safe and secure storage in a modern facility which is currently being built at the site.

The work is being carried out in collaboration with Bechtel Cavendish Nuclear Solutions, a US-UK joint venture appointed by Sellafield Ltd to help design, manufacture, test and install the machinery needed to empty the silo.

The equipment has been trialed at Rosyth, Scotland at a mock-up model of the silo. It took 18 months to design and 18 months to manufacture, test and commission – an incredibly tight timescale for a nuclear process.

Single-use plastics a Global Threat

The amount of harmful plastic litter in the oceans grows ever greater, endangering sea life and marine ecosystems across the planet.

It is estimated that as much as 12.7 million tons of plastic enter the oceans annually. Most of this plastic is single-use items such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, straws and spoons etc, and these can be hazardous to the marine animals that get caught on or try to eat them and in many cases ingesting can be fatal.

These plastic items eventually break down into ever smaller parts to form microplastics, which are then more widely mistaken for food and eaten.

If that's not bad enough, microplastics entering the food chain have an impact on humans, as we then eat the fish that ingested the microplastic which in turn enters our own bodies.

The way forward is clear. We as a global species, need to urgently reduce the amount of single-use plastics. The UK introduced the single-use plastic carrier bag charge in 2015, making it law that retailers must charge 5p per bag. The proceeds of which are then used for 'good causes'. Many retailers are phasing out plastic bags and using biodegradable alternatives, which can only be a good thing. Other single-use items such as plastic straws and cutlery as used in bars, fast food outlets and other similar establishments are being replaced by renewable

materials such as birch or bamboo or even corn starch and are 100% compostable.

There are also many things we can do individually to reduce the amount of plastics entering the environment. Reuse any plastic bags you may already have, try to buy in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging you throw away. Use refillable water bottles and use tap water instead of buying bottled. Pack your own lunches using reusable containers. Make sure you recycle correctly and regularly. If we all do our bit it will have an effect in greatly reducing the amount of single-use plastic waste produced and we just might **save the planet.**



welters[®]
ORGANISATION
WORLDWIDE
Design and Innovation

Company Profile

The welters family have been involved in furniture design for over three generations, from hand crafted pieces to high volume manufacturing and are an active member of the Livery Companies of the City of London Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers.

Currently the main focus of the company is in developing and manufacturing interment and memorial systems for burial and crematorium authorities with a wide range of experience in concrete casting techniques and other materials.

As well as furniture manufacture and stone casting, welters have over many years owned a closed breeding herd of welters Heritage pedigree Galloway livestock.

March

London Fabric Show is Heaped with Glory

Five up and an all out winner the 5th London Fabric Show to be held at Chelsea's FC's Stamford Bridge Ground ended with accolades a plenty. A feast of fabrics was on display and both exhibitors and visitors left the show in sprightly mood after a positive and successful show.

James Lowe from Aqua Clean, who launched a number of new inherently fire resistant and wipe cleanable fabrics at the event said as the show ended, "This has been the best London Fabric we have ever exhibited at, we had only real, positive customers, and there was a steady flow of customers on both days which made the show extremely manageable for us and pleasurable for the visitors. Can't wait for 2020!"

Organised by the BFM (British Furniture Manufacturers Association), the 2-day event ended on 5th March and featured 38 high-end fabric producers and suppliers from Europe, including 10 from Belgium, 9 from Turkey and 9 from the UK.

Attended by fabric buyers from the biggest names in UK upholstery, along with buyers from many group retail stores, the show featured the latest designs in everything from heavy duty jacquards to light cottons and also new fire and stain resistant fabric treatments.

New exhibitors, Bill Beaumont from Lancashire, Ragolle Textiles from Belgium and Teksium Tekstil from Turkey all reported their satisfaction at the event and vowed to return next year.

The renowned Belgian

exhibitors including Annabel Boyteks and Ter Molst were also keen to express their praise of the 2019 show with Koen Mortier from Ter Molst saying "It has been an excellent show, we are very pleased and saw everyone we wanted to see."

Turkish companies who are also a central part of the show, had a vast array of different fabric types and designs to show to the willing buyers. Adoksan, Aydin, Marstek and Yakar are among the regular exhibitors who find the show invaluable in reaching the full breadth of UK buyers in one hit.

British companies are another firm fixture at the London Fabric Show and included many prominent returning exhibitors – Abraham Moon, Art of the Loom, British Velvets, Mobus and Warwick Fabrics among them. Showing their newly launched National Trust Collection, Abraham Moon which left the show in spirited mood with their

sales manager Julian Smith saying "It would take 2 months of solid driving around to see all of the companies that we can see here in 2 days. This show is a winner and we'll definitely be back next year."

The relaxed and sociable atmosphere at the show also makes it a special event in the UK furniture calendar. Outgoing BFM MD Jackie Bazeley, said, "I am gratified to go out on a high. This show has become an essential date in the diary for many of our members. It is always a pleasure to see so many well-known and friendly faces at Chelsea and I'm sure that the show will continue to develop and thrive. We have had great feedback already from this year's event and I'm thrilled at its success."

The show will return to Chelsea FC's West Stand in 2020 and the dates will be announced shortly.

For more information contact:

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Design Icon: Aston Martin DB5

By Paul Bazeley



Aston Martin DB5 Saloon 1963
Source: [Michael Schäfer - chilterngreen.de, Wikipedia Commons](#)

Whether you are into your cars or you're a fan of James Bond or whether you know nothing about either, you have probably still heard of the Aston Martin DB5. It is not just a car but a thing of beauty and is one of, if not the most famous car in the world.

The Aston Martin DB5 was unveiled at the Earls Court Motor Show in October 1963. The DB5 is the evolution of the DB4 and the two are very similar in terms of looks. This is because John Wyer the Aston Martin general manager at

the time had insisted that the styling of the DB4 had to come from an Italian coachbuilder. In stepped the Milanese company Carrozzeria Touring Superleggera and the DB4 was created.

Aston Martin once again teamed up with Carrozzeria Touring Superleggera when creating the DB5. While there are many similarities to the DB4 on the outside, it was the inside of the car which really stepped up its luxury game. The car came with electric windows, chrome wire wheels,

reclining seats, wool pile carpets, twin fuel tanks, leather trim and a fire extinguisher as standard and for an extra £320 you could also have air conditioning.

While these luxury additions came with added weight, Aston Martin improved the cars specs by adding a 4.0L engine, instead of the 3.7L which was in the DB4, and a 5-speed gearbox. This helped to produce a top speed of 142mph and meant the car could go from 0-60mph in 7.1 seconds.

While these specs look pretty impressive for 1963, the problem the car faced was it couldn't compete with the Jaguar E-Type. Nevertheless, Aston Martin got the break they needed when Ken Adam, who was the producer for the James Bond film Goldfinger, asked Jaguar if they could use an E-Type in the film and the company declined. The producer approached Aston Martin after the effects expert John Stears suggested the DB5. The owner of Aston Martin, David Brown (the DB

for the cars comes from the initials of the former owner), was unsure at first but he gave in and sent them the prototype. The car was then sprayed in its now famous Silver Birch and the rest, as they say, is history.

Goldfinger (released in 1964) showcased the DB5, gadgets and all, as the most famous car in the world and one of the most sought after. The sales for the DB4 had been good for the company, however, the sales of the DB5 were double that of its predecessor.

Today, the car has appeared in several other James Bond films and many other movies and has cemented itself as an icon in popular culture. When it was released the saloon would have set you back £4,175 and the convertible £4,490, if you wanted to buy a classic DB5 now it would set you back around £1m and in August 2018 Aston Martin revealed it was to build 25 replicas of the car seen in Goldfinger, revolving number plate and all, which would be available for approximately £2.75m.

Whether you are lucky enough to own one, have some money sat around ready to buy one or if it will always be a pipe dream the great thing about the DB5 is that we can all appreciate how much of a beautiful car it is. Now if you'll excuse me I'm off to watch Goldfinger, again.

£201 million road repair fund to resurface extra 1,000 miles



Extra £50 million to councils for potholes and flood resilience plus £151 million to reward best practice examples.

Councils in England will be given a share of more than £200 million for road maintenance and pothole repairs – enough to resurface a road between London and Budapest.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has announced the allocation of an extra £50 million for councils for potholes and flood resilience as well as £151 million to reward examples of councils' best practice – funding that could resurface more than 1,000

miles of road.

These funds come from the £6.6 billion the government is providing in the 6 years to 2021 to improve local roads.

As part of the government's work to prevent potholes in the future, the Department for Transport will fund early stage research into new surface materials or pothole repair techniques, such as 3D printing. A digital hub will also be set up for experts to share and develop innovations.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

"Every motorist knows that potholes have been a problem in the last few

years. That is why the government is continuing to step up its funding to local authorities to address this.

"It is now up to highways authorities to innovate and use new technologies to solve the problem."

The investment is on top of the £725 million local authorities will receive in 2019/20, based on the infrastructure they maintain, including length of roads, number of bridges and street lights.

Road users are already seeing the benefits of extra funding for road maintenance, with £420 million spent in the past

6 months on resurfacing, pothole repairs and bridge renewals. Several local authorities have also bought pothole repair machines such as Dragon Patchers and JetPatchers – to help repair potholes and other defects quickly.

The Department for Transport, along with Cumbria County Council and highway survey firm Gaist, is also trialling low-cost sensors to monitor river levels across the region to reduce the risk of future flood damage.

In north-east Lincolnshire the council and partner ENGIE have introduced a new heat and recycle system which mixes new and existing surfaces to create a thermo-bond and reduce the potential for weak points which let in water, creating potholes. As the technique recycles the existing surface, no waste is taken to landfill.

Already this year the government announced it will be providing £23 million for trials of new technologies to develop pothole-free roads, such as using kinetic energy to heat surfaces, recycling plastic waste into a harder-wearing surface or installing sensors to predicts where issues might occur.



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BREXIT: Parliament votes down the “Stay in and pay up” Treaty

By John Redwood MP

It's been a disagreeable week in Parliament with endless rows and speculation about what might happen next. The government told Remain supporters voting down the Agreement would lead straight to a No deal exit, and told Leavers it would lead to a long delay in Brexit. As their Withdrawal Agreement was a guaranteed 21 month delay, a probable 45 month delay and a possible permanent place in the customs union with regulatory alignment they should know about delay. The government was determined to keep people focussed on anything other than the surrender terms of the document, as no one sensible could sign such a document. Why agree to pay whatever bills they send you, and to

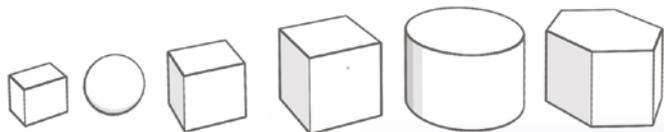
accept any laws they make without you?

The UK now has just 12 days to decide if it wants to ask for a delay to leaving or else we will just leave. The EU would want to have a reason for a delay, and would insist on us fighting the EU elections in May. As any of the variants so called soft Brexit advocates like would require us to sign the Withdrawal Agreement first this is a bit of a problem. Why should the EU think this government or Parliament could deliver anything, given the track record?

The EU would offer a delay in return for a second referendum or possibly a General election. There is no way Conservative MPs would support either of these ideas, so it is difficult seeing even Mrs May changing her mind to promote them.

Official portrait of John Redwood
Photo by Chris McAndrew via Wikimedia Commons

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National News Headlines January 2019

1st January

- Fury over the foreign truckers who dodged £1m in crossing tolls
- May pledges to tackle 'rip-off' firms as energy bills capped
- Savers hit as FTSE falls 12% in year

2nd January

- Brexit Britain can help defend global democracy, says Hunt
- Triumph for Nasa at edge of solar system
- Landlords 'rip off' councils with £1bn bill for homeless

3rd January

- Two held over English Channel migrant crossings
- Hospitals 'coping better with winter'
- Javid calls on Navy to save lives in Channel

4th January

- Double blow to May's hope of Brexit victory
- Migrant curb plan 'worse than useless'
- Sales slump in Next stores prompts fresh call to reform business rates

5th January

- Surging cost of energy fuels leap in families' bills
- Labour kicks out lying MP who may face being jailed
- Time using landlines halves in five years, says Ofcom

6th January

- Brexit bonus pledge to pay for elderly and maternity support
- Labour faces mass exodus over Brexit policy
- Moscow spinning new web of spies in UK



National News Headlines January 2019

7th January

- Young hit as tax toll on over-50s falls
- NHS long-term plan: Focus on prevention 'could save 500,000 lives'
- British stars enjoy Golden Globes glory

8th January

- MPs pledge to block veterans witch-hunt
- Scottish government admits Salmond inquiry failure
- Skripal Novichok poisoning attack house roof demolished

9th January

- Millions are 'too shy' to take cancer checks
- Brexit: MPs to resume debate on PM's plan
- Sainsbury's sees retail sales fall 1.1% over Christmas

10th January

- Trump flies to border in battle of £4.5bn wall
- Brexit: Theresa May considering Labour MP's demands on workers rights
- M6 closure: Lorry driver arrested after 'migrants' found

11th January

- Jaguar to axe 4,500 jobs after being hit by diesel backlash
- Universal credit: U-turn on two-child cap on benefit
- UK economic growth hits six-month low

12th January

- Scrapping free TV for over-75s will plunge 50,000 into poverty
- Our nuclear future 'is at the mercy of China'
- Link between air pollution and risk of miscarriage



25th January

- Cancer survival rates joy...if it's caught early
- Queen makes plea for Britons to find 'common ground'
- Emiliano Sala: Probe into missing footballer's flight

26th January

- Irish PM rebuked for stoking fear of troops sent to a no-deal border
- Tory donors 'are holding back their cash until May goes'
- Latest British tactics on Brexit: blame the French

27th January

- Clean up your act net giants warned
- Corbyn and Abbott 'wreck' law to protect child sex abuse victims
- Salmond to keep Russian TV job despite sex charges

28th January

- Harry Potter used to lure Aussie doctors to Britain
- Morrisons to trial US-style paper bag
- Half of all magistrates courts axed since 2010

29th January

- Tower block owners face order to replace dangerous cladding
- 9,000 jobs are at risk in shake-up, says Tesco
- Samsung to ditch plastic packaging to stop pollution

30th January

- Bullying, the greatest concern for under 13s
- Passenger misery is worst in 10 years
- Brexit: EU 'united' on deal as Theresa May asks for talks

31st January

- Voters back May's new talks with EU
- Guildford pub bombings inquest to resume 45 years on
- Knife crime: Suspects could be banned from social media



National News Headlines February 2019

1st February

- Polar vortex kills 12 in the US as Hell freezes over in -45C whiteout
- Health screening 'not meeting targets', report finds
- TSB suffers £105m loss after computer chaos

2nd February

- BBC defends £4 hike as over-75s could lose their free TV licences
- Social media sites to be held to account by new regulator
- Officials warn of putrefying piles of waste after Brexit

3rd February

- Putin hits back in nuclear row and promises new missiles
- Canadian music mogul bids to save HMV
- Foster care is faced with a 'looming crisis'

4th February

- Hard-working Britons plan to keep going past the pension age
- Trump's four-day visit to UK cost the taxpayer £14.2million
- Hermes in 'ground-breaking' pay deal for couriers

5th February

- PM to defend Brexit strategy on Northern Ireland visit
- HMV chain saved but some stores will close
- Labour anti-semitism 'impossible to stamp out'

6th February

- Investors swindled out of £197m by scammers
- Donald Trump to visit UK in December for Nato summit
- Windrush row over criminal deportation flight to Jamaica



National News Headlines February 2019

7th February

- Test could prevent 1 in 5 cervical cancers
- Single HS2 station to cost £1bn
- Brexiters have special spot in hell, says Tusk

8th February

- 'Doomsday' tax cuts planned if there's No Deal
- Just one in five think May will get good Brexit deal
- Most widespread bills rise since Nineties to hit 15m households

9th February

- Half of bus routes 'under threat'
- Bezos 'blackmail' scandal threatens to engulf Trump
- MP who vetoed upskirting bill objects to FGM protection law

10th February

- Duty hike for non-UK home buyers
- Corbyn supporters aim vicious racist rants at Jewish Labour MP
- Bosses who 'play fast and loose' with pensions face seven years in jail

11th February

- Past debt shows Corbyn 'is not fit to govern'
- Ministers blast Tory MP for blocking law on child FGM
- UK economic growth slowest since 2012

12th February

- Watchdog that let energy bills soar blasted for £1.7m staff bonus spree
- Hammond's Brexit fears as economic growth falls
- Brexit: Theresa May says MPs must hold their nerve



National News Headlines February 2019

13th February

- Now Labour's lawyer is dragged into storm over anti-Semitism
- UK inflation falls to two-year low in January
- England's greatest goalie dies at 81

14th February

- Obesity blamed as the average UK bra size rises to 36DD
- Who'll look after our elderly post Brexit, ask care chiefs
- Cannabis blamed for depression in 60,000

15th February

- US plans to send British jihadists to Guantanamo
- No-deal 'more likely' after May defeated again
- Trump ready to declare emergency to get wall

16th February

- Shamima Begum: Family of pregnant IS teen plead for return
- New Year sales lure shoppers back to high street
- Children take to streets in UK-wide climate strike

17th February

- Turmoil as Flybmi collapses
- Anger as minister's speech halts China visit
- 800 jihadis ready to unleash Isil on the West

18th February

- BBC is urged to resist the end of free TV licences for the over-75s
- Seven MPs leave Labour Party in protest at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership
- Facebook needs regulation as Zuckerberg 'fails' - UK MPs



National News Headlines February 2019

19th February

- Honda confirms Swindon car plant closure
- More Labour MPs and some Tories could join new group - Chuka Umunna
- Short prison sentences could be axed in justice revolution, says minister

20th February

- Britain could eliminate cervical cancer by 2055
- How over-50s have pushed employment to a new high
- More non-EU workers here than ever

21st February

- Ailing high streets must become social hubs to survive, say MPs
- Sainsbury's and Asda merger put in doubt over price rise fears
- Jihadi bride denied route home via baby's citizenship

22nd February

- Alarm over children not seeing a dentist
- Minister flies to US to deliver warning to Facebook founder
- 100 Tory MPS ready to force Brexit delay if May's deal fails

23rd February

- Anger at plan to slash prison sentences for robbers and burglars
- Ministers spend £100m on Brexit consultant contracts
- Beavers to become protected species in Scotland

24th February

- PM rocked by rift on immigration
- Corbyn told: change course before it's too late for Labour
- Jihadi bride: 'Britain trying to make an example of me'



National News Headlines February 2019

25th February

- Brexit 'within grasp' says May at summit in desert
- Spy chief 's new warning over Chinese tech firms
- Olivia Colman wins best actress Oscar

26th February

- 20C was warmest Feb ever
- Desperate May tries to buy off rebel ministers
- Corbyn comes out for second referendum

27th February

- Labour anti-Semitism: MP says party is 'too apologetic'
- BBC and ITV set to launch Netflix rival
- Brexit: May tells MPs 'do your duty' ahead of fresh votes

28th February

- Four out of 10 GPs plan to quit over the next five years
- 'Racist, liar, conman': claim that imperils the president
- Disabled pensioners hit by care crackdown



National News Headlines March 2019

1st March

- Fury as MPs are given a £2k pay rise
- PM's chance of getting her deal through is still less than 50%, says Tory rebel
- Net immigration from EU at 10-year low in eastern exodus

2nd March

- It's time for Grayling to go, say furious MPs
- Children are getting addicted to vaping, warn health experts
- Europe is a museum – we are the future of farming, says US envoy

3rd March

- Statin deniers are putting patients at risk, says Minister
- Campaigners welcome free tampons for hospital patients
- Delay to Brexit is now 'unavoidable', says Barnier

4th March

- Now Eurosceptics swing behind the PM's Brexit deal
- European investment bucks Brexit doubts
- Major new inquiry into 'Westminster child abuse'

5th March

- Council tax bills to rise by average of £76 a year
- Corbyn aide 'defended anti-Semite'
- MMR vaccine linked to lower rates of autism

6th March

- Alarm over plunge in care home standards
- Voters set to win chance to kick out MP jailed for lying
- Momentum fined £16,700 for 'multiple electoral law breaches'



National News Headlines March 2019

7th March

- Alarm over huge slump in children who read for fun
- Brexit: UK urged to submit 'acceptable' backstop remedies
- Grenfell Tower: Prosecution file 'unlikely' before 2021

8th March

- EU must give way to secure deal, says PM
- Glasgow School of Art criticised over Mackintosh Building fire
- May pleads with EU to be flexible ahead of key vote

9th March

- Hope for market revival as house prices see record rise
- May pleads with EU leaders after day of cabinet chaos
- Corbyn backtracks on Final Say referendum

10th March

- Sajid Javid 'a moral coward' over death of Begum baby
- Dismay at new Labour failure to act on charge of antisemitism
- Public swinging behind no-deal

11th March

- Hunt: We'll bring IS children back to UK
- Hammond's going green with drive to tackle climate change
- Brexit talks deadlocked day before Commons vote on May's deal

12th March

- Axing A&E waiting time targets will cost lives, warn doctors
- Brexit: MPs to vote on Theresa May's deal
- Storm Gareth: Heavy rain hits ahead of strong winds 'up to 80mph'



National News Headlines March 2019

13th March

- Hammond to warn of £20billion austerity blow if there's No Deal
- Brexit: MPs to vote on 29 March no-deal exit from EU
- Thousands of teenagers in care living without adults

14th March

- Brussels ready to enforce long delay as patience runs out
- Brexit: PM to bring third Brexit deal vote to Commons
- Bloody Sunday soldiers await prosecution decision

15th March

- The Killers and The Cure to headline Glastonbury
- Worst knife figures for 10 years fuelled by repeat offenders
- Taxes to rise for high and middle earners

16th March

- Brexiteers may back PM's deal says McVey
- Comic Relief: Bodyguard and Four Weddings reunion help raise £63m
- Winter bites back with snow warning

17th March

- New Zealand PM promises changes in country's gun laws
- May begs 'patriotic' MPs to back deal
- Internet giants have swallowed 400 rivals – with NO opposition

18th March

- Veterans' fury as Corbyn backs putting Bloody Sunday troops in dock
- Tories demand May quit if Brexit deal is to pass
- Corbyn will meet SNP for talks on new Brexit deal



National News Headlines March 2019

19th March

- Climate change: Water shortages in England 'within 25 years'
- Brexit: Theresa May to press on with deal despite Bercow ruling
- May's deal on a knife edge as repeat vote is ruled out

20th March

- Child obesity 'timebomb' to take heavy toll on NHS
- Brexit: Theresa May will not ask EU for long extension
- Brexit deadlock shows 'democracy all but dead' - Donald Trump Jr

21st March

- Brexit: Revoke Article 50 petition crashes Parliament website
- Crossrail delay to leave businesses with extra bill of up to £600 million
- May: don't blame me for Brexit crisis, blame MPs

22nd March

- EU takes control of Brexit timetable as May is sidelined
- Tories tell the PM that her time has run out
- Petition More than a million want article 50 to be revoked

23rd March

- Tories plot revenge on Bercow with rival election candidate
- Asian gold: More than £140m stolen in UK in last five years
- May gambles with vote on customs union

24th March

- Speaker 'using Brexit to boost Brand Bercow before he quits'
- Caliphate crushed at last, but warnings Isil could rise again
- Scrap HS2 and spend cash on roads, says ex-Treasury chief



25th March

- Trump hits out as report clears him of Russia election meddling
- Brexit: Cabinet to meet amid pressure on May
- Drugs smuggled into Guys Marsh prison in dead rats

26th March

- Treasury staff will retrain in Left-wing economics if Labour wins
- Brexit options 'narrowing', says health secretary
- England to report racist abuse of players in Montenegro

27th March

- UK set to adopt vehicle speed limiters
- The Beat singer dies aged 56
- Tate Modern overtakes British Museum as top UK visitor attraction

28th March

- Families will pay average £78 more for council tax
- Brexit Shambles: ... but huge blow as DUP still says No
- Brexit: Process in deadlock as MPs seek consensus

29th March

- At the hour we were due to leave...another threat to our EU exit
- May tries to buy time as ministers say: go now
- Public enemy number one? Forget Trump – it's the anti-vaxxers

30th March

- Women GPs paid a third less than the men
- Brexit: Theresa May ponders fourth bid to pass deal
- May: one last vote or it's a general election

31st March

- Furious Tory MPs tell May: we'll block snap Brexit election
- Teachers volunteer for £7,000 pay cut to save jobs
- Councils handed £200m to help combat pothole woes



