[***Simon Hoggart's diary: Where Austria leads, Labour follows***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FYH-K9H0-00VR-R4Y6-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

April 16, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 15

**Length:** 901 words

**Byline:** Simon Hoggart

**Body**

\* Years ago I interviewed Denis Healey, then chancellor of the exchequer, for a profile in this paper. I asked if he saw any country as a role model for Britain, and to my surprise, he replied "Austria".

It was prosperous, efficiently run, had good social services, bags of culture, and had said goodbye to its empire with grace and without regret.

I thought that this was all very well, but it did ignore the Austrian enthusiasm for the anschluss, and the bourgeois self-satisfaction emitted by plump women in loden coats scoffing cream cakes in over-decorated cafes.

Still, I could see the point. What most people wanted was prosperity and security, and not to be part of some great ideological struggle, then offered by the loony left which was near to winning control of the party.

This week, at Labour's manifesto launch, I felt that the Austrianisation of Labour was almost complete. My colleague Michael White asked Tony Blair where the passion was, and Blair seemed a little fazed.

To sum up his reply, he said that what people wanted was a secure job, a good education for their children, freedom from the fear of crime, and a decent health service. In short - he didn't say - they wanted Austria. Why would they want passion as well?

All this was illustrated by the astonishing total of 277 pledges the party produced on Wednesday. There has been some mockery - much of it deserved, some of it from me - about the random nature of these promises.

How on earth does "more power for parish council wardens" find itself ahead of "support Middle East peace process"? Or why is "convict those planning terrorist activity" languishing behind "Britain the best place to make films"?

Yet as I re-read it I realised what it evoked. It was a record of the kind of things you fret about when you've woken up 40 minutes before the alarm and can't get back to sleep.

You might worry about global terrorism, but then you remember that grinding noise when you put the car into third, and what a new gearbox costs. You might want a reformed House of Lords, but that doesn't stop you bothering about your mother's delayed operation. Sometimes you are more worried about your bunions than ***climate change***.

It is, in that way, a very realistic list, though I don't suppose Labour will do much about many of the items on it, however much they would like to.

Three years ago we were in Austria. Our daughter had fallen on some ice and her neck needed attention. We arrived at the clinic five minutes before it shut. Could they help us? They obviously thought we were mad. Of course they could help. They were a clinic. What did we expect?

The bill was a stiff euros 252, plus euros 19 for the prescription, but the insurance paid up. And the waiting time was two minutes. That would be nice here.

\* In spite of all that, I wish my colleague Geoffrey Wheatcroft good luck with his book The Strange Death of Tory England (Penguin £20). It's very funny, slightly bonkers, and full of good stories - though sales might be dented if Michael Howard pulls off a startling victory next month.

I particularly enjoyed some of the tales about Ted Heath, famous as the rudest man in politics. In these days of bland, pasteurised politics, his sheer ocean-going offensiveness was bracing, even admirable.

To Airey Neave, a rightwing MP who'd just had a heart attack, he remarked: "So that's the end of your political career, then."

I recall John Nott, then a junior Treasury minister, describing how he'd been anxious about the way inflation was about to take off.

He approached Heath, then prime minister, in the division lobby and asked if he could have a word. "If you want to resign, put it in writing," said Heath, and stalked off. If some people are little rays of sunshine, Heath could be a refreshing burst of sleet and hail.

\* Tesco announced £2bn profits this week. Round where I live people cordially hate our new Tesco Express.

They never seem to have anything you need, the fruit and veg are sparse by the evening, the choice of real food is limited, yet there are whole aisles of fizzy drinks and nasty snacks.

Their gigantic lorries clog the traffic and block the bus stops. Yet here's the paradox - another reason we can't stand the place is because we have to queue so long to pay, since everybody uses it.

I guess the chain has become one of those things we put up with in modern Britain because we need them, but which we all dislike - privatised trains, the high street banks - even Tony Blair, who people are going to vote for because he has eliminated the competition.

He has become the Tesco of British politics: unloved but unstoppable.

\* An email arrives from Brigid Keenan, author of the sprightly Diplomatic Baggage - Memoirs of a Trailing Wife, that has been selling lots of copies recently.

(She asks what is the word for books written by the middle aged - obviously not "chick lit". "Decreplit" perhaps.)

Anyhow, she'd read the item here last week about people giving up their seats on public transport.

"A friend of mine was on the tube the other day when a frail old woman got on. To my friend's surprise, a fat boy stood up and offered his seat to her - whereupon the boy's mother said, 'Oi, you paid good money for that seat. Siddown.'

"No one dared say anything, and my friend has felt bad ever since."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); TERRORISM (62%); MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS & INJURIES (60%); PEACE PROCESS (51%)

**Company:** TESCO EXPRESS  (68%); TESCO EXPRESS  (68%)

**Person:** TONY BLAIR (72%)

**Geographic:** AUSTRIA (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); MIDDLE EAST (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Simon Hoggart's sketch Blair left startled by Cameron's cosy embrace***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HRV-YJB0-00VR-R18D-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

December 8, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 1

**Length:** 717 words

**Body**

David Cameron had told us that he wanted the House of Commons to stop sounding like Punch and Judy. Instead what he offered us was Richard and Judy - cosy and warm, perfect with tea and a biscuit. Though perhaps the questions were more challenging, and took less time to ask.

The new Tory leader, leading at his first prime minister's questions, was anxious to demonstrate that he was beyond old-fashioned name-calling. Instead he wanted to show his willingness to cooperate with the government where it was deserved. He wished to help Mr Blair on education. He yearned to be at his side over ***climate change***. He needed to be in the prime ministerial embrace.

Mr Blair was less enthusiastic. He was like one of those handsome young men on the Dick Emery show, pursued by the star in drag. "Ooh, you are awful. But I like you!" his female character would purr, as she tried to twine her arms round him. A look of panic would cross the young man's face as he attempted to flee.

The new Tory leader arrived in the House before Tony Blair, who was fashionably late getting to his seat. Mr Cameron looked nervous. He fiddled with his chin, tried a nervous smile and let his lips work as one eating an imaginary doughnut. His wife, Samantha, was up in the gallery. She is to give birth in two months' time. They say that babies in the womb respond to their mother's anxieties. This will be born as if he or she had just drunk eight cups of strong coffee.

Prime minister's questions is a horrible experience for anyone who might be described as a human being. Mr Cameron did have the great advantage: most of his own side were actually on his side. For Tory leaders, that is a help.

He had to wait for a while. By tradition, the opposition leader can only speak after at least one Labour MP has asked a question. Jeff Ennis asked how Mr Blair would be able to deal with a young, handsome, charismatic and intelligent politician - "such as myself!"

Wacky question planted by the whips? I expect so. Mr Cameron was finally able to get to his feet, to huge (his favourite word) cheers from his own side. "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Mr Speaker," he said, nervously. "The first issue the prime minister and I are going to have to work together on is getting the good bits of your education reforms through the Commons and into law."

Hilary Armstrong, the Labour chief whip, started shouting, as she often does. She is the Commons' bag lady, railing against anyone who hasn't given her 20p. Mr Cameron broke off. "That's the problem with these exchanges. The chief whip on the Labour side shouting like a child. Now, has she finished?" he yelled at her. "Have you finished? Right!"

It was a terrific coup de theatre. He was ostensibly offering to help Labour. But he had to please his own side too. So he picked on the weakest member of the government, now in deep trouble for incompetent whipping. He had spotted the wounded zebra, and was giving it a good gumming.

Mr Cameron's offer of support on education left Mr Blair startled. He must have expected assaults over Gordon Brown's massaged statistics, or the EU rebate. Maybe he had not expected this sneaky attack - not a Trojan horse so much as an entire Newmarket stud.

What Mr Cameron was offering, in the guise of cooperating for the good of the nation, was a deal by which Tony Blair could force his policies past his unwilling party with the help of Tory votes. If he accepted the hand of friendship, it would be pushed behind his back to make the half-nelson of revenge.

No Labour prime minister could cope with that. Do Liverpool cooperate with Everton, agreeing on a draw before the match?

Mr Blair flannelled. He couldn't agree with schools having the right to decide admissions. And what about investment? He had to find something that made him sound different from the Tories: almost anything would do.

Later, when Mr Cameron ("I want to talk about the future. You used to be the future once") raised the environment, Mr Blair jabbed his forefinger at him. "Sorry I'm pointing my finger, breaking up with new consensus," he said apologetically.

But there is not new consensus. Just the old battle pursued by other means. All we now know is that Edward Scissorhands is wearing boxing gloves.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); CHILDREN (75%); EDUCATION REFORM (70%); PUBLIC SCHOOLS (70%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (69%)

**Industry:** PUBLIC SCHOOLS (70%)

**Person:** DAVID CAMERON (79%); TONY BLAIR (79%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (93%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Simon Hoggart's sketch: Oooh, missus! Bring on the sausages and the truncheon***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HPM-V920-00VR-R47B-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

December 2, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** Simon Hoggart

**Body**

These may be straws in the wind. They may even be hay bales in the wind. But on Wednesday, Jo Swinson, the Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbarton, asked Tony Blair if, now that he had seen off his fourth Tory leader, it might not be time to "say goodbye to the Punch and Judy style of prime minister's questions?" Mr Blair said he agreed with her, adding: "We will wait and see what happens next week."

You might feel that for Tony Blair to sound rueful about knockabout question times is like Lewis Moody agreeing that rugby union should always be played in a gentlemanly fashion. We can share the sentiment, without necessarily feeling that he is the right person to express it. Anyhow, we also learned over the past few weeks that David "Dave" Cameron, who seems certain to be facing the prime minister next Wednesday, intends to agree with Tony Blair when he thinks he is right. This may be just a ruse to split the prime minister away from his backbenchers, but even so it is an intriguing development. Not one we sketchwriters welcome, of course - the thing we most dread is the Commons turning into a continental assembly, all reasoned argument and collegiality. Bring on the sausages and the policeman's truncheon, we say.

Then yesterday we heard from Alan Johnson. The trade and industry secretary doesn't stir it or deploy his truncheon. His catchphrase is "the hon gentleman makes a very in teresting point". In the whole 50-minute session he had only one word of criticism for the other side - "that is nonsense on stilts," he said, which was a joke rather than an attack.

The first set of questions was about "micro-generation in UK homes" which will apparently cost nothing and prevent ***climate change***. I guessed this meant that we would generate hydroelectric power at home by connecting a hamster wheel to the kitchen tap. And I wasn't entirely wrong. It seems we will all have solar panels and saucer-sized wind turbines on the roof. Some homes, possibly those with a tiny Sizewell B in their garden shed, will actually feed power into the national grid, so that instead of getting a bill from the electricity company, you will receive a cheque!

Mr Johnson agreed heartily with those who raised the topic, especially with Tory frontbencher Bernard Jenkin. When his opposite number, David "one-and-a-half-brains" Willetts rose (he's been demoted from "two-brains" since his last-minute switch to David Davis) Mr Johnson found that he agreed entirely "with the point that is being made".

The only time where his geniality seemed as if it might fail came when Mr Willetts asked him if he had learned yet to love the EU trade commissioner, Peter Mandelson, as the prime minister bids us. Mr Johnson: "There is love abundant in my heart for the commissioner, and there always has been."

Oooh, missus! But in the new, touchy-feely, happy-together Commons, he might not even have been sarcastic.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** PRIME MINISTERS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (78%); COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS (76%); RUGBY (70%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (61%)

**Industry:** NATURAL GAS & ELECTRIC UTILITIES (89%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (78%); WIND ENERGY (78%); HYDROELECTRIC POWER (67%); HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (67%); POWER FAILURES (66%); ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY (64%); SOLAR ENERGY (62%)

**Person:** TONY BLAIR (90%); DAVID CAMERON (79%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Soames and Yeo leave Tory front bench***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G94-F960-TX0B-N394-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

May 9, 2005

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**Length:** 830 words

**Highlight:** Two of Michael Howard's shadow cabinet resigned today, as speculation mounted about the timing of and frontrunners in the Conservative leadership race.

**Body**

Two of Michael Howard's shadow cabinet resigned today, as speculation mounted about the timing of and frontrunners in the Conservative leadership race.

Tim Yeo, the shadow environment and transport secretary, quit in order to have free rein to debate "non-traditional issues" ahead of the contest, while the shadow defence secretary, Nicholas Soames, retired to the backbenches, saying parliament would be "much more important now".

With Mr Howard due to address a meeting of all 197 Tory MPs this morning, the frontrunners in any election contest - Liam Fox and David Davis - are keeping their powder dry, although Dr Fox will address a rightwing thinktank on the case for lower taxes tomorrow.

Whilst it was not immediately clear if Mr Yeo - firmly on the liberal, modernising wing of the party - would stand himself, he said the party has focused too much on its core voters during the campaign.

Mr Yeo said he was leaving the shadow cabinet because "I no longer feel I can argue the case for extensive change ... while accepting that restraint".

Mr Soames confirmed he had stepped down too, saying: "Parliament is going to be much more important now and I want to take an important role on the backbenches." His name has been linked with the chairmanship of the influential 1922 committee of backbench Tory MPs although Mr Soames insisted he would not be running for the job, currently occupied by Sir Michael Spicer.

Supporters of Mr Davis have also been vocal over the weekend, complaining about Mr Howard's proposed reform of the party electoral system, which they believe is designed to stymie their candidate's chances.

Speaking on the Today programme, he said: "I shall set out what I think is the agenda for the Conservative party and its leader to address. It is perfectly possible my colleagues will think I am talking complete nonsense, in which case I certainly won't be a candidate."

"What we need to do is widen out the issues which we talk about, which we are associated with, so they reach beyond our core voters," he said.

Mr Yeo said the party scored very well with its core voters and ran a professional campaign with a more credible leader, but that large sectors of the public felt untouched by the party. He said the Tories needed to talk more about other "non-traditional" issues such as the environment.

Mr Yeo said the party scored highly on issues such as crime, immigration and taxation. He said they were important issues and should not be abandoned.

But he added: "The truth is we have now gone through two elections when we have stuck on around 32-33%. I think it has been too much focus on issues which are of concern to our traditional supporters.

"I think that had we widened out our message on issues like the environment, we would have made clear to the public that we were not the same party they rejected comprehensively in 1997 and have pretty well rejected in the last two elections as well.

"I really do believe there is a whole huge section of younger voters, of A-B voters, where alarmingly our share of support is going down at each election."

There is speculation that the deputy leader, Michael Ancram, will also leave the shadow cabinet.

Meanwhile today, the Tory frontbencher John Redwood refused to say if he would run for the leadership. "There is no leadership vacancy at the moment in my party," he told the Today programme.

Mr Redwood said he wanted to be part of a general debate about how to improve politics.

"In due course there will be a timetable for a leadership election, then I can decide what would be right to do in terms of who I can support. By all means talk to me when we have a leadership election up and running or in prospect. That is not the current position."

Mr Redwood also appeared to criticise the Tory election campaign. "We had enormously long debates on immigration, we had practically no debate on ***climate change***, world poverty, the planet and the environment," he said. But he said the media was partly to blame for that.

Mr Yeo said he thought there were "people who have been somehow discouraged from returning to the Conservative party because they don't think we are concerned about the work/life balance, that we should talk more about compassion and social justice and individual liberty.

"Those are issues which in a fairly rich society we should be talking about more. And I believe if we redefine the agenda for the Conservative party to address in the next four years, that is the first and essential step towards getting back into government."

Mr Yeo said there was a wide choice of leadership contenders. But before a new leader was chosen it was vital to have the debate on which direction the party should take.

"I believe it needs to strike out on a different direction to the one it took in 2001 and I think by doing so we can help people understand that we are completely different.

"The party that was very successful in the 1980s has changed into one that can be very successful in the 21st century."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (90%); RESIGNATIONS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); ELECTIONS (89%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (89%); LIBERALISM (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (76%); TAXES & TAXATION (70%); IMMIGRATION (50%)

**Person:** LIAM FOX (73%)

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society 2: Where else can I go?: Try a fresh start in Norwich, where one in four people work in the public sector***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H3R-TTV0-00VR-R45D-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 14, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 1

**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** Debbie Andalo

**Body**

What they said about Norwich "This thriving, pluralistic, proud vital place." Actor Simon Callow.

"Norwich has everything." Architecture historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner.

Population 122,000.

Local politics City council led by a Liberal Democrat minority administration; county council is Conservative controlled.

MPs Both Labour. The home secretary, Charles Clarke, holds Norwich South. Maverick former cancer researcher Ian Gibson holds Norwich North.

Local authority Norwich city council employs 1,010 staff and has a "fair" performance assessment. The county council employs 27,842 staff, and has a "good" assessment rating.

Job prospects The city council needs a chief executive. The county council wants more children's social workers, planners and lawyers.

Health service The government's flagship Norfolk and Norwich university hospital, built under the private finance initiative at a cost of £230m, opened in 2001. It is a teaching hospital and takes medical students from the new medical school at the University of East Anglia.

Central government The Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office and Inland Revenue have offices in the city. Norfolk police has its HQ there. The city council is involved in the Lyons review into relocating government offices from London and the south-east.

Environment/regeneration The city has 1,500 historic buildings. It is home to the Tyndall Centre for ***Climate Change*** Research, based at the University of East Anglia, and CRed, the UEA-led initiative to cut emissions.

Voluntary sector There are 307 charities based in Norwich. They have a combined local income of £231.6m, which includes donations from individuals and income from grants and other funds. Some 14,603 people who live in Norwich are charity trustees.

Commuter links There are trains every half-an-hour to Cambridge (75 mins) and London (1 hr 45 mins).

Property prices Two-bedroom flat: £150,000; three-bedroom semi-detached house: £180,000; four-bedroom detached house: £220,000.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** CITIES (91%); CITY GOVERNMENT (91%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); COUNTIES (90%); COUNTY GOVERNMENT (90%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (78%); PUBLIC FINANCE (78%); HISTORY (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); MEDICAL RESEARCH (77%); CHILDREN (77%); RESEARCH INSTITUTES (76%); GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (74%); MEDICAL EDUCATION (74%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (74%); PRICES (74%); PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES (73%); PROPERTY PRICES (72%); CANCER (71%); ONCOLOGY (71%); CLIMATOLOGY (71%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (71%); TAXES & TAXATION (71%); COMMUTING (70%); CHARITIES (69%); EMISSIONS (66%); EXECUTIVES (55%)

**Industry:** ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS (90%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (78%); GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (74%); PROPERTY PRICES (72%); ONCOLOGY (71%); EMISSIONS (66%)

**Geographic:** NORWICH, ENGLAND (94%); CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (79%)

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Eco Quotes***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H27-R1F0-00VR-R241-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 7, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 14

**Length:** 87 words

**Body**

"Sometimes one must do wrong in order to do right." Edward Rees QC, defending Greenpeace anti-GM action last week.

"We must resist those who would plunge us back into. . . simplistic evil." Professor Philip Stott gives his verdict on environmentalists.

"The levees (in New Orleans) are sinking." Al Naomi , US Army Corps of Engineers project manager, speaking back in June 2004.

"However much you believe in ***climate change***, Katrina is a wake-up call." Bill Wiggin (right), Tory environment spokesman.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (77%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (72%); CIVIL ENGINEERING (71%)

**Company:** GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (84%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (84%);  ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS   (57%);  ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  (57%)

**Organization:** GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (84%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (84%);  ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS   (57%);  ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  (57%); GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (84%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (84%);  ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS   (57%);  ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  (57%)

**Industry:** CIVIL ENGINEERING (71%)

**Geographic:** NEW ORLEANS, LA, USA (79%); LOUISIANA, USA (79%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Eco surroundings***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HB6-9GK0-00VR-R43H-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 12, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 8

**Length:** 767 words

**Byline:** John Vidal

**Body**

Holy orders

Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London, is vying for green bishop of the week award. Seven years ago, he called for "a new breed of eco-friar, not unlike the early followers of St Francis" - the patron saint of the environment - and he has now given the annual St Francis lecture about the man who preached to the animals. It was a cracker. Warning people not to think of St Francis as "a kind of . . . leftist eco-freak", he urged the church to set tough new environmental standards for all its new buildings, to invest in renewable energy, raise issues with multinationals, and ask difficult questions at corporate AGMs. The bishop did not let Tony Blair off the hook, either. "(He) has shown leadership on (***climate change***) but, as he has said, 'to acquire global leadership on the issue then Britain must demonstrate it first at home'. Quite so," he added, cuttingly.

George Bush last week urged Americans to do their patriotic duty and save energy. This is the same man who, two months ago, signed into law a separate, $ 14.5bn (£8.3bn) energy bill with incentives for new oil drilling, coal plants and nuclear power, and who on Friday saw laws passed to give billions of dollars more in tax breaks to the oil industry and to lower environmental standards.

Three years ago, the government paid the US paper corporation Scott's £17m to end peat cutting on the highly protected Thorne and Hatfield Moors in South Yorkshire. But the company retained the peat extraction rights for around 30 hectares, and now it intends to commence cutting again. "This is outrageous," rails Friends of the Earth. "Is not it time that the UK government stood up to businesses that benefit from destroying the environment?" Environment minister Elliot Morley is also distraught: "Scott's proposals go against the spirit of the agreement reached," he says through gritted teeth.

Just outside Ruabon, north Wales, is the old Hafod quarry, designated a European special area of conservation (SAC) and site of special scientific interest (SSSI) on account of its large colony of great crested newts. For whatever reasons, the Environment Agency of Wales, the Welsh assembly, Wrexham borough council and the Countryside Council for Wales seem unable or unwilling to stop the site becoming a huge new Mersey Waste Holdings rubbish dump. The company's own engineering consultants accept damage will be done, saying last week: "The only ecological impact (of the developments taking place) . . . is the loss of 9 hectares of habitat within the SSSI/SAC . . ." Perhaps a forthcoming word from the European commission's nature and biodiversity unit will concentrate the Welsh authorities' minds.

The Gwana and Gwi bushmen of the central Kalahari game reserve in Botswana are nearing the end of their stand to be allowed to remain in the desert where they have lived for millennia. Last week, more were evicted at gunpoint and those who resisted were told they would be killed. So far, three people, including one child, have been shot. "Botswana's friends must forcefully express their disgust, or suffer enduring shame," says Stephen Corry of Survival. More information: 0044 7815 300 664 or [*mr@survival-international.org*](mailto:mr@survival-international.org)

Attribute the following quote. Is it from: a) the Bishop of London; b) the former Bishop of Coventry; or c) Tony Blair? "After years of campaigning to get Nestle to stop promoting breast milk substitutes, I've become used to receiving bland propaganda purporting to show themselves in a benevolent guise. I would regard this new (fair trade) coffee as simply one more attempt to pull the wool over our eyes." Yes, it was Simon Barrington-Ward, retired Bishop of Coventry.

For many years, UK environmental groups monitoring BP's involvement in the soon to be opened Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline have complained that villagers along the route in Georgia and Turkey are being intimidated by local officials. In a letter to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the coalition of agencies - Friends of the Earth, Platform, the Corner House and KHRP - are now complaining that compensation for land and lost earnings remains "unacceptably low". The EBRD helped finance the £3bn project. There are a series of applications before the European Court of Human Rights alleging violation of villagers' rights. "Although the pipes have been buried, the rights of affected community members in Georgia and Azerbaijan will likely continue to be threatened and violated as a result of the operational phase," the letter warned.

John Vidal

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (89%); MINING & ENVIRONMENT (89%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (77%); CONSERVATION (77%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (77%); ENGINEERING (75%); AGREEMENTS (74%); REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (72%); LEGISLATION (71%); HOLDING COMPANIES (69%); EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS (69%); MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (69%); TAXES & TAXATION (69%); CITY GOVERNMENT (60%)

**Company:** U S PAPER CORP  (66%); U S PAPER CORP  (66%)

**Industry:** MINING & ENVIRONMENT (89%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (78%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (77%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (77%); ENGINEERING (75%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (75%); LANDFILLS (72%); OIL EXTRACTION (70%); MISC NONMETALLIC MINERAL MINING (69%); NATURAL GAS & ELECTRIC UTILITIES (69%); NUCLEAR ENERGY (69%); COAL FIRED PLANTS (65%); MINING & EXTRACTION RIGHTS & ROYALTIES (65%); PAPER MFG (64%); COAL INDUSTRY (51%)

**Person:** TONY BLAIR (53%); GEORGE W BUSH (53%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (78%); WALES (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); UNITED STATES (92%); EUROPE (79%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (71%)

**Load-Date:** October 14, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Clouds on the horizon: A reluctance in Whitehall to build on current renewable energy initiatives will effectively pull the plug on this fledgling industry***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HC6-CMJ0-00VR-R05J-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 19, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 8

**Length:** 954 words

**Byline:** Crispin Aubrey

**Body**

When the 400ft high Cooperative Insurance tower re-opens in the centre of Manchester next month it will feature the largest array of solar cladding in the country. Covered from top to toe in dark-blue photovoltaic panels, it will generate enough electricity annually to make nine million cups of tea. It could also be a stunning monument to a much lauded government initiative that is about to hit the buffers.

A grant of £175,000 towards the £5.5m landmark came from the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Major Photovoltaic (PV) Demonstration Programme. But as from this winter, the scheme will grind to a halt, along with its companion, the Clear Skies initiative. There is no firm decision yet on the structure or budget for any replacement.

Both these support schemes for emerging renewable energy sources have been impressively successful. The PV programme has seen the number of UK houses with solar electric roofs increase from a handful in 2002 to more than 1,000 now. Large-scale developments such as the Manchester tower have proliferated and, at least partly encouraged by the business climate, two new solar manufacturing plants have opened. Solar PV prices have fallen by 30%.

The Clear Skies programme has seen thousands of homes and community centres fitted with everything from solar water heating to wood-fuelled boilers and small scale wind turbines. With grants ranging up to £5,000 for householders and £100,000 for community projects, specialist plumbers have switched from oil and gas central heating to renewables. The solar heating industry has grown into a £19m annual business.

This winter, however, the application process for both schemes will end, while the government's suggested replacement, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP), has only just completed its consultation phase. The approaching funding hiatus, which could last for six months or more, is causing panic in the solar installation industry. "It makes business planning virtually impossible," says Jeremy Leggett of Solar Century, which now has a £6m turnover installing products such as its integrated solar roof tiles. "They've created a fledgling industry and then decided on a whim to nip it in the bud." Many of the 60-odd UK solar installation companies are expected to lay off staff.

When first announced in 2001, the government's solar PV initiative was expected to continue until 2012 and "establish the UK as a credible player . . . alongside Germany and Japan". The reality is very different. Last year the UK installed a record 2.5MW of solar power, but Germany installed over 300MW. Although successful, the total value of the Clear Skies and PV programmes has been £45m. By comparison, Germany spent £300m to reach its 100,000 solar roofs target.

"Given that the government persists in marginalising these technologies, the least it can do is maintain what little support they do provide," says Stephen Tindale, executive director of Greenpeace. "Many innovative businesses will simply not survive the funding gap. In the face of ***climate change***, that is scandalous."

There are also serious doubts about the replacement LCBP. While approving of the general thrust - to focus on the buildings that contribute up to 50% of greenhouse gases - small scale renewables advocates are concerned that the new programme will involve competitive bidding and be concentrated on a few large-scale "innovative" projects. Individual householders, whose involvement has been one of the successes of Clear Skies, could be excluded.

The proposed budget for the LCBP is believed to be just £5m a year. By contrast, a 2001 joint government-industry report recommended that £150m would be needed to deliver up to 100,000 PV roofs.

The DTI says that even though applications are ending, funds will still flow from the existing programmes during 2006. The new LCBP, which will "not just be about capital grants", will be rolled out "in the next financial year", a spokesman says. Despite lobbying from MPs including Alan Whitehead, chair of the parliamentary renewables group, the department is not prepared to consider releasing funds to ensure continuity.

This debate is important for the future of renewable energy in Britain. While the government's recent flirtation with a revived nuclear contribution has set the atom against the air, this is a false dichotomy. However successful, wind power cannot do it on its own. Until many of these less commercial technologies, including the domestic scale "micro-renewables", begin to make their contribution, a true green energy policy will not happen.

The UK's 10% renewables target by 2010 is already looking fragile, but the expectation for a 20% contribution by 2020 looks even less likely to be achieved. "That 2020 target is just going to be dead and buried if (the government) does not bring forward these programmes now," says Philip Wolfe, chief executive officer of the Renewable Power Association.

In the longer term, one way to encourage micro-renewables would be through a legal requirement for all new houses to have a set proportion of their energy supplied from sustainable sources. The London borough of Merton is pioneering this through an obligation for major developments in the district to have 10% of its energy produced by local renewables. The Greater London authority is considering a similar rule for all strategic developments in the capital.

But none of this can happen, the renewables associations argue, unless an industry is first created that is geared up to service and supply a growing market. That is where the current programmes come in and why their demise would be so disastrous.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** GRANTS & GIFTS (76%); BUSINESS CLIMATE & CONDITIONS (75%); COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS (75%); PRICES (75%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (71%); CRAFT & TRADE WORKERS (70%); MANUFACTURING FACILITIES (70%); LAYOFFS (66%)

**Industry:** SOLAR ENERGY (92%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (89%); SOLAR POWER PLANTS (89%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (77%); WIND ENERGY (77%); MANUFACTURING FACILITIES (70%); WIND POWER PLANTS (68%)

**Geographic:** MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); GERMANY (92%); JAPAN (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Eco Soundings***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H57-BFC0-00VR-R0XT-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 21, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 8

**Length:** 595 words

**Byline:** John Vidal

**Body**

On side

Greenpeace was jubilant last week after a Cardiff jury took only hours to acquit its 13 volunteers who last June locked themselves for 36 hours to a ship coming into the Bristol channel carrying what they thought was unauthorised GM cattle feed from the US. But the case was a nail-biter that could have ruined both the group and some of the individuals involved in the protest. More than £100,000-worth of boat and back-up vehicles had been seized, the two-week trial costs were huge and the judge could have thrown the book at several of those in the dock who had been on other Greenpeace actions. The verdict should worry government, which seems unable to win cases brought against anyone saying they are behaving ethically.

Fact of the week

Total oil spilled by Hurricane Katrina, according to the US Coast Guard: 6.95m gallons, not including 35 spills "under 10,000 gallons". Total spilt by Exxon Valdez, 1989: 11m gallons.

Jim'll fix it

UK biodiversity minister Jim Knight is unlike other mortals. While all his Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs civil servants were taken violently ill at a meeting in Congo earlier this month, Knight was untouched and is now bragging that the UK environment is on the mend. To be precise, he says, 67.4% of land categorised as sites of special scientific interest is now in favourable condition compared with 56.9% two years ago. To be equally precise, Eco Soundings calculates that Knight will have fixed it completely at 4.23pm on September 20 2008.

Duty blind

Can anything make giant energy companies in the US reduce carbon emissions? Last week, eight US states and the city of New York went to the courts to try to force five of north America's largest carbon emitters to cut back. But New York district judge Loretta Preska passed the buck: "Were judges to resolve political questions, there would be no check on their resolutions because the judiciary is not accountable to any other branch or to the people." The same could be said of the presidency, others might have muttered.

Female persuasion

Apart from Les Degonfles, the Paris bunch who go out at night to let down the tyres of sports utility vehicles, radical eco group of the week is surely the Women's Institute. On its 90th birthday last week, it sounded like a great green aunt - demanding that the government reduce the UK's oil dependency and insisting that its members consume as ethically as possible, recycle as much as possible, that something must be done about ***climate change***. Top WI concerns? Inadequate public transport, food miles, wasteful packaging, the impact of hazardous manmade chemicals on health, traffic congestion, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions . . . you name it.

Blind ambition

Disney's foray into China could end in tears if the country's economic miracle keeps up. Last week, China's vice-president, Zeng Qinghong, opened the corporation's vast new theme park in Hong Kong, but a massive smog from factories in southern China promptly descended on the site, making it impossible to see more than a few yards.

Space invaders

Dismay in east London that 170 small businesses on Fish Island are to be evicted to make way for the Olympics has turned to fury after learning that they are to make way for a temporary space for 500 coaches belonging to Olympic sponsors. "I can't believe (Ken Livingstone) will let these businesses be concreted over so the world's super rich have somewhere to park," says Jenny Jones, Green party London assembly member.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (89%); JUDGES (89%); EMISSIONS (88%); OIL SPILLS (88%); JURY TRIALS (78%); VERDICTS (78%); MARINE TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (74%); CLIMATOLOGY (73%); BIODIVERSITY (72%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (71%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (71%); CIVIL SERVICES (69%); GREENHOUSE GASES (67%); HURRICANE KATRINA (53%)

**Company:** WALT DISNEY CO  (50%); WALT DISNEY CO  (50%);    GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (93%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (93%)

**Organization:** GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (93%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (93%); GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (93%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (93%)

**Ticker:** DIS (NYSE)  (50%); DIS (NYSE)  (50%)

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (88%); OIL SPILLS (88%); MARINE TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS (77%); SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (75%); VEHICLE TRAFFIC (75%); LIVESTOCK FEED (72%); MOTOR VEHICLES (70%); NATURAL GAS & ELECTRIC UTILITIES (68%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); CARDIFF, WALES (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); UNITED STATES (93%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Fury in the fast lane: Protesters fighting Glasgow's proposed M74 extension suspect party political horsetrading may have led to the Scottish executive's rejection of an inspector's recommended refusal.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H57-BFD0-00VR-R0XV-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 21, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 9

**Length:** 1302 words

**Byline:** Peter Hetherington

**Body**

By any standards, the M8, on its stilted, winding journey through Britain's finest Victorian city, is not a pretty sight. The motorway ploughs between council estates on the eastern outskirts of Glasgow before slicing through the western edge of the city centre and heading for a wide, ugly concrete bridge over the Clyde. Sitting uneasily between elegant, sandstone tenements, it is cursed by pedestrians trying vainly to get from one side of the city to the other.

But after almost 40 years, councillors still sing its praises. Other western countries might be cancelling plans for urban motorways, and in some cases tearing them down, but Glasgow is pressing ahead regardless. Yet when an eminent planner criticised proposals for another elevated motorway on the scale of the M8, after a three-month public inquiry, one might think councillors and Scottish ministers would sit up and take notice.

Richard Hickman, the inquiry inspector, could find few kind words for the five-mile M74 extension, which will complete a motorway box around a city which, ironically, has one the lowest levels of car ownership in the UK. As "one of the most complicated and expensive engineering projects currently contemplated", it would "fundamentally" conflict with a commitment by Scottish ministers to curb car use by investing in public transport.

Hickman warned that carbon emissions would rise along with traffic levels, hundreds of jobs could be lost in businesses along the route, and communities would be split. If that was not bad enough, his lengthy report added: "The combined and cumulative effect of these various adverse impacts on these communities would be likely to be very severe, particularly during construction and then permanently after the road opens due to continuing community severance, traffic noise, visual intrusion and air pollution."

But when the Scottish executive responded earlier this year, they dismissed Hickman's report out of hand. Glasgow's Labour councillors found Hickman's conclusions "unbelievable". While conceding that the new road would "marginally increase" traffic, a letter from the executive's head of roads maintained recently: "Ministers consider that the scheme has a number of clear advantages, including reducing congestion on the M8 and local roads, social inclusion benefits resulting from reduced traffic on local roads, significant wider economic benefits, job creation in the local area, and certain air quality improvements, all of which have not been given sufficient weight in the (inspector's) conclusions."

Whether ministers in Scotland's Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition government overstepped the mark by dismissing the inspector's report so comprehensively is now open to debate. Protesters from Joint Action Against the M74 coalition (JAM74) - including local community councils, public transport groups and the Scottish Socialist Party and Scottish Greens (both represented in the Scottish parliament - have succeeded in delaying the project by seeking what amounts to a judicial review in Scotland's Court of Session.

The case, due to be heard next year, is so alarming Glasgow city council's new leader, Stephen Purcell, that he has written to ministers expressing concerns. He says the motorway is vital to the prosperity of Glasgow and finds it hard to comprehend the arguments from a "small number" opposed to the motorway, which some fear could cost up to £1bn.

"I find his report incredible," Purcell says. "The debate has been with us for a number of years. There is a consensus among mainstream political parties (including Conservatives and the Scottish Nationalists). There is demand from the business community. I am delighted ministers took the right decision."

Nevertheless, some Labour councillors appear uneasy. Malcolm Cunning, who represents a ward near the proposed route, describes the motorway as a "necessary evil". For him, the fact that plans have been discussed since the 1960s appears a good enough reason to go ahead. "I am not a traffic planner and I am happy to accept arguments that this is an essential last part of the motorway network," he says.

Others, however, argue that transport planning has moved on in the last 40 years. "We're the last bastion of urban motorways construction," laments Rosie Kane, a Scottish Socialist Party member of the Scottish Parliament, who entered politics on the back of early protests against the M74. The path of the motorway is a few hundred yards from her home in Bankhall Street, in the Govanhill area on the southside of Glasgow.

"It's very hard to figure it out," she says. "They've left all this land for the motorway (much of it a narrow, scrubland corridor) to blight for 35 years, all for this monster. But it's also blighting Scotland. We're trying to portray ourselves as a modern, European country and this is taking us back to the dark ages."

The area, like much of working-class Glasgow, is beset by poor health with heart disease and respiratory ailment rates among the highest in the UK. "Asthma is already sky-high among the kids round here and this will make things worse," complains Danny Lowe, a local community worker.

Health concerns are a key issue for Colin Guthrie, a Glasgow GP for 21 years. "Air pollution and noise are already problems," he maintains. "We should be creating a healthy environment for people. No one would countenance putting a motorway through better-off parts of the city, so they pick off the most vulnerable area. But why should poorer people always come off worst?"

But Purcell insists that, far from harming public health,"this will allow us to make a massive impact in the regeneration of the east end of the city - one of the most deprived parts of the UK, never mind Glasgow". He says contamination from old industries will be removed to build the motorway, opening the way for further investment. "We think there is a social benefit to the communities that currently suffer the traffic, congestion and pollution that will be moved out of residential areas and on to the motorway."

While Purcell insists that the motorway forms part of a wider scheme to improve transport in Glasgow, others believe the M74 will take such a big slice from the Scottish transport budget that little will be left for other schemes.

"Our central complaint is that the Scottish executive is failing to look at alternatives to road building in Glasgow," says Colin Howden, director of the public transport pressure group, Transform Scotland. "We fear that the M74 will mean a squeeze on funding."

That fear is shared by Patrick Harvie, a Green party MSP for Glasgow, who finds it hard to understand why the Liberal Democrats, who claim to have greenish credentials elsewhere in Britain, are backing the scheme. Some suspect this is probably the result of horse-trading in the ruling coalition, with Labour agreeing to back plans for re-opening part a Borders railway line through Lib-Dem territory to Galashiels in return for support for the M74 extension.

"It's become a virility symbol," Harvie complains. "All the international evidence shows that if you build new road capacity it quickly fills up and you're no further forward. Just think what you could do with £500m to improve public transport in Glasgow." As to the likelihood of civil disobedience, Harvie predicts: "Court action is the best chance we have, but if that fails I suspect direct action will go ahead."

And that could embarrass Scottish ministers at a time when the UK government is keen to show it is addressing ***climate change***. Whether Holyrood can convince Westminster - which will be asked to approve the funding - that the M74 is a "one-off", a "missing link" in the city's motorway network, remains to be seen.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** CITIES (90%); CITY GOVERNMENT (90%); CITY LIFE (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (88%); POLITICAL PARTIES (85%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (73%); AIR POLLUTION (70%); AIR QUALITY (70%); JOB CREATION (69%); EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (69%); ENGINEERING (66%); EMISSIONS (65%); GREENHOUSE GASES (65%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (65%); POLITICS (62%)

**Industry:** HIGHWAYS & STREETS (73%); VEHICLE TRAFFIC (71%); ENGINEERING (66%); EMISSIONS (65%); BRIDGES & TUNNELS (57%)

**Geographic:** GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (88%); SCOTLAND (96%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%)

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Not in my Nama: FoE activists Tony Juniper and Ronnie Hall on environmental threats posed by the latest world trade talks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G4W-0Y80-00VR-R2G3-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 11, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 799 words

**Byline:** Tony Juniper and Ronnie Hall

**Body**

In a conference room on the shores of Lake Geneva, trade negotiators are drawing up plans that could eventually have a devastating impact on the global environment. The World Trade Organisation's member states are negotiating what they call "non-agricultural market access" or Nama, and have started compiling a wish list of national laws they would very much like to bury.

Analysis by Friends of the Earth has revealed nearly 200 challenges so far. They range from measures to fight ***climate change*** to protection of forests and fish stocks. Those labels that manufacturers have to put on freezers and fridges that state how energy efficient they are? South Korea wants them to go. American laws promoting fuel efficiency? They, too, are "excessive and unreasonable", says South Korea. Meanwhile, the US wants to stop other countries promoting fuel efficiency, arguing that countries should not be giving tax breaks to people with smaller cars - as is done in the UK.

Measures controlling the use of toxic chemicals are taking a hammering, too, with countries including Japan and Argentina challenging legislation that seeks to manage the environmental hazards posed by certain chemicals. Labels and regulations relating to the use of some dyes, mercuric oxide, nickel oxide and 1,2-dichloroethane are all mentioned specifically, even though they are hazardous chemicals that are carefully regulated under European law.

Even chemicals legislation that has been in place since the 1960s could be under threat. Japan is clearly intent on using the Nama negotiations to try to stop the EU introducing its proposed new Reach (registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals) legislation.

Forests and fish stocks are not being spared either. Challenges to eco-labelling and certification systems could dismantle the Forest Stewardship Council certification scheme, as well as government timber procurement schemes and EU illegal logging legislation, all of which will soon require certificates of legal origin from certain importing countries.

Egypt and Norway are objecting to labelling fish and fish products with information about where the fish were caught, despite the parlous state of fish stocks. These are among a range of challenges relating to fish products which when combined with the complete liberalisation of this sector (also planned) puts fish and fish products right at the top of this corporate hit list.

The negotiators seem to be oblivious to the fact that three-quarters of the world's fish stocks have collapsed, are on the verge of collapsing or are just recovering. Nor do they appreciate that millions of artisanal fishing communities that rely completely on fish for food and income are finding it increasingly hard to secure a livelihood. The WTO approach seems clear: trade takes priority.

Even the simplest recycling measures could be under threat. Argentina is arguing that it is too expensive to label containers and products with symbols providing consumers with information on recycling possibilities. South Korea, meanwhile, is objecting to national requirements that manufacturers and retailers recycle scrapped automobiles - as European laws require.

The Nama negotiations also include proposals to liberalise and increase the trade in gemstones, precious metals and primary aluminium. If the US gets its way, the same would apply to all natural resources. This could mean more raw materials on the market at ever lower prices, which might be good for some companies now, but is not good for the conservation of dwindling natural resources.

While there is a chance that some of these challenges will be quietly withdrawn because governments have not agreed to negotiate in some of the areas listed, most of them could stay the course as they are backed by powerful corporate lobby groups.

There is a real possibility, too, that negotiators will seek to trade reductions in environmental standards in Europe, and other industrialised countries, for corporate access to ever more and cheaper natural resources in developing countries. A preliminary deal could even be done by the end of December at the WTO's next ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

The UK government is an enthusiastic champion of free trade. The Nama negotiations show the dangers posed by this approach and highlight the urgent need for countries to develop alternative, fair and sustainable economies that combat poverty while respecting environmental limits. If this is to happen, the new Labour government must do all it can to halt the Nama negotiations.

Tony Juniper is the executive director of Friends of the Earth. Ronnie Hall is trade campaign coordinator of Friends of the Earth International. More information at [*www.foei.org/trade*](http://www.foei.org/trade)

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (89%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); FISHES (89%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY (78%); TRADE DEVELOPMENT (78%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (78%); CONSUMERS (77%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (77%); EU CHEMICAL REGULATIONS (76%); EUROPEAN UNION LAW (76%); CHEMICALS SAFETY REGULATION (76%); PRODUCT LABELING (75%); TOXIC & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (74%); ENERGY & UTILITY DEREGULATION (74%); LAKES (73%); IMPORT TRADE (73%); ILLEGAL LOGGING (70%); TAXES & TAXATION (69%)

**Company:** FRIENDS OF THE EARTH   (90%);  FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  (90%);  WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION   (84%);  WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  (84%)

**Organization:** FRIENDS OF THE EARTH   (90%);  FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  (90%);  WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION   (84%);  WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  (84%); FRIENDS OF THE EARTH   (90%);  FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  (90%);  WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION   (84%);  WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  (84%)

**Industry:** ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (90%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); SEAFOOD (89%); CHEMICALS REGULATION & POLICY (89%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (89%); SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY (78%); EU CHEMICAL REGULATIONS (76%); CHEMICALS SAFETY REGULATION (76%); PRODUCT LABELING (75%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (75%); TOXIC & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (74%); ENERGY & UTILITY DEREGULATION (74%); ILLEGAL LOGGING (70%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (79%); NORWAY (79%); EUROPE (79%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (78%)

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Opinion: Wildlife policy for planners can't work without enforcers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HC6-CMJ0-00VR-R05H-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 19, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 8

**Length:** 458 words

**Byline:** John Everitt

**Body**

Our wildlife is bracing itself for an onslaught. On one side is ***climate change***, on the other development - with land being engulfed by the hunger for housing, roads and airport expansions. So how is the government going to meet its international obligation of halting biodiversity loss by 2010?

We now have the most important piece of planning policy intended to achieve that: Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9), addressing wildlife and geology. It has fine words. It recognises the importance of ancient woodland and habitat networks and highlights the role of the planning system in meeting national and international obligations. It also introduces the principle of habitat enhancement and restoration - the potential to build biodiversity into new developments and to create green infrastructure. But is this enough to transform the way we plan for wildlife?

With statutory sites now having more protection, the pressure is on non-statutory local wildlife sites, which have little real protection by legislation. It happens only if local development plans contain strong and effectively enforced policies to safeguard them. Take Nottinghamshire, where 35% of local wildlife sites were lost or severely degraded between 1994 and 2004, with weak planning policy and enforcement the main culprit. PPS9 gives little steer on how critical their protection is, with the result that more sites will slip through the net.

It is the same with species. Our most endangered wildlife has been driven to the edge of extinction, and inappropriate development could tip it over the edge. It is not just the critically rare, it is the gradual attrition of the scarce and threatened species that is cause for concern. The planning system struggles to cope with local extinctions until it's too late. A report on wildflowers has shown that seven species are lost from each county across Britain every 10 years - in one year in the worst counties. PPS9 will help, but does not go far enough.

Stronger planning guidance is needed, but we must also deal with the shortage of planners and ecologists.

A recent survey by the Local Government Association and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has shown that vacancy rates average 11%, with only 60% of local authorities in England now having a dedicated ecologist. Who is going to implement these policies and stand up for wildlife against the pressures of development?

We are at a critical point. We can embrace the planning system as a powerful tool to help restore our countryside and halt the loss of biodiversity, or we can abandon it to deliver more of the same and erode the quality of all our lives.

John Everitt is head of conservation programmes at the Wildlife Trusts

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** BIODIVERSITY (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); CONSERVATION (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); LAND RECLAMATION (78%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (78%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (78%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (77%); RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANCY RATES (77%); PRIME MINISTERS (72%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (72%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (71%); POLLS & SURVEYS (64%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (50%)

**Industry:** REAL ESTATE (78%); (78%); RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANCY RATES (77%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ENGLAND (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Patriot games: National security is being used to fuel a US rethink on oil as traditional greens enlist some unlikely allies. Polly Ghazi reports***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G6B-N6M0-00VR-R0JX-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 18, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 1093 words

**Byline:** Polly Ghazi

**Body**

Can American consumers be weaned from their love affair with gas-guzzling vehicles? Evironmentalists in the US are recruiting some unlikely new partners in the battle to persuade them to do so, and rightwing Republicans who still question the existence of ***climate change*** are nevertheless lining up to promote hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles - in the name of national security.

With America consuming a quarter of the world's oil, while owning just 3% of global reserves, reducing oil imports - particularly from Islamic regimes - is moving rapidly up the US political agenda. Leading the charge is the Set America Free coalition, whose members include not only the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) and the Apollo Alliance - a coalition of unions and green groups, including the Sierra Club and Greenpeace USA - but a stellar cast of rightwing Republicans. Among these are Robert McFarlane, who served as Ronald Reagan's national security adviser, former CIA director James Woolsey, former presidential candidate Gary Bauer, and Frank Gaffney Junior, an Iraq war hawk who heads the rightwing Centre for Security Policy.

Set America Free's website, administered by the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (IAGS), a conservative thinktank, does not pull its punches. Featuring flashing pictures of Osama bin Laden and bloodied 9/11 victims, it warns that "much of the world's oil is controlled by countries that are sponsors of or allied with radical Islamists who foment hatred against the United States". With two-thirds of US oil consumption devoured by transport, the coalition is proposing a $ 12bn (£6.4bn), four-year federal investment in "next generation fuels" and vehicles, with the goal of halving oil imports by 2025.

Energy policy analyst Anne Koron, co-chair of Set America Free and a director of IAGS, says: "The idea is to jumpstart a shift in the transportation sector away from petroleum to domestic energy sources . . . so we can reduce our oil dependence and send less money to countries that, in the words of President George Bush, don't particularly like us.

"I'm not an environmentalist, nor are many of the people in the coalition. Our members are really strange bedfellows, but we just concentrate on the 80% of policy in the energy field that we can agree on."

The coalition's "blueprint for US energy security" embraces proposals long advocated by environmental groups, including tighter vehicle fuel efficiency standards and policies to encourage public transport use. It urges new federally financed incentives to car manufacturers and consumers to develop and buy plug-in hybrids and vehicles run on ethanol, methanol and biodiesel, and calls for federal funding to build a national distribution system for alternative fuels.

A second bipartisan thinktank, the Energy Future Coalition (EFC), recently sent an open letter to Bush and every member of Congress urging new policies to spur car manufacturers to develop a wide range of alternative fuel vehicles. The letter was signed by 31 national security experts, Republicans and Democrats, including McFarlane, C Boyden Gray, who served as White House counsel for the first President Bush, and John Podesta, Bill Clinton's former chief of staff.

While left-leaning environmentalists may find some of the language from their rightwing allies hard to swallow, there is no denying that those on the right have political clout. And with the doors to the White House firmly closed on the green lobby since it poured unprecedented time and money into backing Democrat John Kerry's failed presidential bid, its leaders have grasped the chance to find common ground with those who can gain the administration's ear. NRDC, for example, has joined the EFC and is holding joint energy briefings for members of Congress with its Set America Free partners from rightwing thinktanks.

"When you drop the labels, you find that many people have common ground in this area," says David Doniger, NRDC's climate policy director. "Who says an environmentalist can't care about national security, or a national security hawk can't care about the environment?"

With concern for the environment far lower on the public radar than national security, environmental groups are happy to play the patriotic card to increase support for energy conservation and fuel efficiency measures that have languished before Congress for years.

Doniger explains: "It would be tempting to say: 'I told you so.' Instead, we are trying to find pathways to work together, and with members of Congress of both parties, to get some sensible energy legislation introduced."

Reid Detchon, executive director of the EFC, which was set up in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, agrees that spokespeople with conservative credentials, such as Woolsey and McFarlane, have an "in" with a Republican administration and Congress, which the greens lack. "We are arguing forcefully that if you look at oil independence as a national security concern - which it is - then the US should be investing in it as we are in other national security areas, such as the department of defence, instead of nickel and diming the development of energy alternatives," says Detchon.

The aggressive lobbying efforts of Set America Free and the EFC are being helped by rising oil and US petrol pump prices, which are triggering a public backlash against gas-guzzling sports utility vehicles (SUVs) and a surge in sales of hybrid vehicles. US sales of the gas-electric Toyota Prius reached 54,000 in 2004 and almost 23,000 in the first three months of 2005, with dealers reporting long waiting lists.

Polls also show that a majority of Americans oppose efforts by the Republican-controlled Congress to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling in order to boost domestic supplies, and agree that buying fuel efficient vehicles is "patriotic".

Add to all this a series of public warnings from the US department of energy that global oil demand will increase steadily through at least 2020, keeping prices high, and you have a potent mix of circumstances that might force the oil-industry-friendly Bush administration to take alternative energy more seriously.

"National security resonates with almost everybody, whereas environmentalism does not," Korin explains. "It is early days, but we are optimistic about getting some measures passed, through members of Congress or the administration. There is a real momentum building in the country for action."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); NATIONAL SECURITY (90%); CONSUMERS (89%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (89%); ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES (89%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (78%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); PETROLEUM EXPORTS & IMPORTS (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); IRAQ WAR (78%); CONSUMPTION (78%); CONSERVATISM (77%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (77%); TRANSPORTATION SECTOR PERFORMANCE (76%); IMPORT TRADE (76%); MUSLIMS & ISLAM (75%); WAR & CONFLICT (73%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (72%); RELIGION (55%)

**Company:** XIAMEN ANNE CORP LTD   (53%);  XIAMEN ANNE CORP LTD  (53%); XIAMEN ANNE CORP LTD   (53%);  XIAMEN ANNE CORP LTD  (53%);    NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL   (83%);  NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL  (83%);  GREENPEACE USA   (56%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (56%);  SIERRA CLUB  (56%);  GREENPEACE USA  (56%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (56%)

**Organization:** NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL   (83%);  NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL  (83%);  GREENPEACE USA   (56%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (56%);  SIERRA CLUB  (56%);  GREENPEACE USA  (56%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (56%); NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL   (83%);  NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL  (83%);  GREENPEACE USA   (56%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL   (56%);  SIERRA CLUB  (56%);  GREENPEACE USA  (56%);  GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL  (56%)

**Ticker:** 002235 (SZSE)  (53%); 002235 (SZSE)  (53%)

**Industry:** ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES (89%); ENERGY CONSUMPTION (89%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (89%); BIOFUELS (89%); AUTOMOTIVE FUELS (89%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (89%); AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (78%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); ENERGY & UTILITY REGULATION & POLICY (78%); PETROLEUM EXPORTS & IMPORTS (78%); OIL & GAS CONSUMPTION (78%); PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (78%); (78%); ALCOHOLS (76%); TRANSPORTATION SECTOR PERFORMANCE (76%); ETHANOL (71%); PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION (71%); AUTOMOBILE MFG (60%); AUTOMAKERS (50%)

**Person:** RONALD REAGAN (79%); GEORGE W BUSH (55%); OSAMA BIN LADEN (50%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (98%); IRAQ (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 18, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Environment: Rat race: The prime breeding ground of the Manx shearwater is being invaded by an unwelcome intruder - Correction Appended***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GNS-TVG0-00VR-R4V1-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

**Correction Appended**



Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 542 words

**Byline:** Mark Cocker reports

**Body**

We were about 2,000 feet up on one of the tallest peaks of the Inner Hebridean island of Rum. It was cold, wet and 2.30 in the morning.

Had it really been necessary, one wondered, to suffer all this simply to capture the essential strangeness of our quarry? But then the nocturnal, burrow-haunting seabird called the Manx shearwater is a creature with a very special sense of place.

Black above and white below, the bird is built like a bijou albatross and is one of the most ocean-going of all British birds. Much of their life is spent wandering featureless stretches of the Atlantic, but they are obliged to come ashore to breed. When they do so they are extremely choosy. Aside from Rum, just two other islands on the planet - Skomer and Skokholm, off the Pembrokeshire coast of south Wales - seem to provide the same exacting conditions that the shearwaters find in the Inner Hebrides.

Between them, the two Welsh sites support about 135,000 pairs, but Rum is the species' motherlode. It has as many as 100,000 pairs - about a third of the world's population - while altogether Britain may hold 90% of the entire species.

Nor is the whole of Rum entirely to the shearwaters' liking. Their nest burrows are concentrated at the southern end of the island on a semicircle of peaks formed in part from a particularly friable type of igneous rock that poured from a long-extinct volcano. Only these layers of larva are soft and porous enough for the shearwaters to excavate their nest chambers.

The fortunes of all these Manx shearwaters were once entirely in the hands of a single family of Lancastrian industrialists called the Bulloughs. They bought Rum in the late 19th century, but their tenancy was brief. In 1959, long after any family member had last visited the island, the estate trustees sold Rum to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Most of the 29 residents are employed by the organisation, which means that Chris Rodger, reserve officer for SNH on Rum, has to face few of the political complications his mainland colleagues encounter.

Yet there is a four-legged bogey in Rodger's idyll. Brown rats have been present on Rum for decades, and while they plague the houses of SNH staff by the shore, they were not thought to have any role in the shearwater colony. Recent studies have now shown that rats are entering the colony during the breeding season and are beginning to predate shearwater eggs and chicks.

This may be an unanticipated consequence of ***climate change***. Mild winters allow higher numbers of rats to survive on Rum and, in the spring, to spread to more remote parts.

SNH has commissioned Rentokil to assess the problem around the staff homes, while studies on predation of shearwaters are ongoing. Control of rodent numbers through conventional poisoning or trapping methods presents severe challenges in an ecosystem as rich and complex as Rum, but Rodger speculates it may become necessary. "We have only to look across to the neighbouring island of Canna to see what can happen," he says. "Rats there reduced Manx shearwaters from 1,000-1,500 pairs to complete extinction by 2002. We can't afford for something similar to happen here."

Mark Cocker is a Guardian country diarist.

**Correction**

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please quote the date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the [*reader@guardian.co.uk*](mailto:reader@guardian.co.uk)

The Guardian's editorial code incorporates the editors' code overseen by the Press Complaints Commission: see [*www.pcc.org.uk*](http://www.pcc.org.uk)   
**Correction-Date:** July 26, 2005

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** BIRDS (90%); POPULATION SIZE (89%); ISLANDS & REEFS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (61%)

**Industry:** PEST CONTROL SERVICES (89%)

**Geographic:** SCOTLAND (79%); WALES (79%)

**Load-Date:** July 20, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Interview: Michael Norton: A serious sense of humour: He's a one-man 'ideas factory' whose new book suggests some wacky ways in which, with a little bit of effort, people really can change the world for the better. Don't just sit back and do nothing, he tells Alison Benjamin***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HP5-89T0-00VR-R3M7-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

November 30, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 5

**Length:** 1316 words

**Byline:** Alison Benjamin

**Body**

Hanging on the wall of his home in Hampstead, north London, Michael Norton has a portrait of Samuel Beckett, ringed with the playwright's words: "No matter, try again, fail again, fail better". It has become Norton's motto and should be adopted, he suggests, by anyone who wants to change the world.

It also appears in the first entry of his latest book, 356 Ways to Change the World, along with instructions to download the picture from a website, frame it and put it somewhere where you will see it every day.

It seems an odd maxim for someone who has achieved so much from transforming charity fundraising and putting young people-led community involvement and grant-making on the map to pioneering social entrepreneurship.

But the principle starts to make sense when you consider Norton's latest venture. His book, published next week, is full of weird and wacky ideas for how individuals can have an impact on the pressing issues of our times. Some look bound to fail. Will sticking fake parking tickets on SUVs to try to get them off the road really reduce ***climate change***? And how can peace be achieved by sending oestrogen pills to George Bush with a message suggesting he adopts a more feminine way of governing?

"The plan was to make things a bit fun," Norton explains. "It's not about shaving your hair and wearing sackcloth. You have to have humour in campaigning, otherwise everything becomes too serious and impossible."

One of his ideas for tackling foreign debt sounds particularly barmy: sending a fiver to the governor of the bank of Sierra Leone with a note telling him it is to help repay the country's debt and asking for a receipt. When I suggest the money will be pocketed, Norton looks at me incredulously. "It's just an idea I had. If he does take the money, then I've learned a bit more about world corruption," he shrugs. "Changing yourself and feeling you can do something is as important as changing the world. If you learn that something doesn't work, try to do something better."

Coming from someone else, that could sound preachy; from Norton, it doesn't. His childlike enthusiasm, coupled with total self-belief, is both refreshing and inspiring. "Lots of people doing lots of small things can begin to make a difference," he says. "That's the essence of the book. Don't just sit back and do nothing."

Online pledge

It is no coincidence that his book is published on December 5, international volunteer day, nor that the entry in the book for that day is to join with other to people change the world using pledge bank. You enter a pledge online ([*www*](http://www). pledgebank.com), promising to do something if a certain number of other people do the same. When enough have signed up, everyone undertakes their pledge and multiplies the impact of the action.

While it is not the only "change the world" book on the market, Norton says his is the only one focused on direct, practical action. Penguin is publishing the Australian edition and versions are planned for South Africa and India. Royalties are going into a not-for-profit, community interest company to develop a website ([*www.365act.com*](http://www.365act.com)), and Norton hopes to build a global community around the ideas. "I want to use the project to promote the engagement of people in society," he says.

This is the thread that runs through all his ventures. In the 1970s, he established the voluntary sector training and research outfit, the Directory of Social Change, which encouraged people setting up small charities and made it easier for them to raise money by prising open the secretive world of charitable trusts and foundations. He then turned his attention to making young people more active citizens by helping to set up Changemakers and YouthBank UK. As co-founder of UnLtd, the national foundation for social entrepreneurs which received a £100m endowment from the Millennium Commission in 2003, he has supported people to use business to tackle social problems.

In the last decade, Norton has also spent much of his time in India - his mother's family were prosperous jute merchants in Bengal - nurturing community-based movements, such as a street children's banking system. There are now 18 such banks operating in six countries. Asked if this legitimises child labour, Norton replies that they are working and living on the streets anyway. The bank gives them a chance to save money and have a future.

Despite his track record, any comparisons with Lord (Michael) Young, founder of the Open University and the National Consumer Society, are brushed aside. Norton describes himself simply as an "ideas factory. I create ideas, try to create a structure for them, and try to organise that they float off while I maintain some interest. I'm just fortunate that I'm reasonably well off and can choose what I do."

He could easily be accused of political naivity. One of his ideas, to start your own soup kitchen, comes at a time when even the larger soup run providers admit parts of the capital are saturated with well-meaning do-gooders dishing out hot drinks and sandwiches. Another involves sending Gordon Brown 0.7% of your annual income to shame the government into meeting its aid target.

Doesn't he agree with traditional lobbying of government? "Yes, but it shouldn't be the only thing people are asked to do," he says. "It's easy to shout.

"I got really pissed off during the G8 preparations when (UN secretary-general) Kofi Annan said the idea was that we could persuade our governments to put pressure on the world system to remove debt and create fair trade. But I wanted to ask: 'What did they advise us as individuals to do?' If you ask any organisation, you'll be greeted with silence. The most important thing is for organisations to campaign with people much more, not just to ask them for money."

His own direct action began, aged 22, as a voluntary youth leader, and it wasn't long before the young Norton - then working as a City banker - made his mark, mobilising in his free time 200 volunteers to teach English to immigrants in London's East End. "I just went to a school and asked for all the names of immigrant families with children who didn't speak English and said we'd give them lessons," he recalls. "The teachers were relieved. There was no data protection then. You couldn't do it today."

Sex strike

Norton says he has put into practice about 50 or so of the ideas in his book - a miscellany gleaned from a global internet trawl, people he has come across over the years, and his own interests, particularly cycling. Has he ridden naked to protest against oil dependency (June 3 entry)? "Not yet." Or gone on a sex strike (December 14)? It worked for the women of Sirt in Turkey, who banned their husbands from the bedroom until they got a mains water supply to their village. "A definite no," he replies, "even though my wife Hilary and I disagree on Iraq".

He does, however, plan to carry out the book's five launch pledges, which include organising a hunger banquet for friends, at which most guests are fed rice and water, and getting 50 people to harass SUV drivers. "I'm really looking forward to telling SUVs to SUV off," he jokes.

In addition, Norton is utilising the December 11 entry to promote 365 Ways to Change the World by leaving the book in public places to be picked up and read by others, who then do likewise - a practice known as bookcrossing.

The more Norton talks, the more you realise that what you mistook for political naivity is actually a refusal to see barriers, or failure. "You never know what the consequences and ripple effect of your action will be," he points out.

Maybe I'll just go and send that cheque to Sierra Leone.

365 Ways To Change the World, by Michael Norton (rrp £7.99). Order a copy for £7.99 (free UK p&p) at guardian.co.uk/bookshop or call 0870 836 0875.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** BOOK REVIEWS (78%); WRITERS (78%); ENTREPRENEURSHIP (74%); DRAMA LITERATURE (73%); FUNDRAISING (69%); VOLUNTEERS (69%); GRANTS & GIFTS (69%); PUBLIC DEBT (68%); NATIONAL DEBT (63%); EXTERNAL DEBT (63%)

**Company:** BANK OF SIERRA LEONE  (66%); BANK OF SIERRA LEONE  (66%)

**Industry:** BOOK REVIEWS (78%); WRITERS (78%)

**Person:** GEORGE W BUSH (50%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (58%)

**Load-Date:** November 30, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Letters: Food for thought***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FXX-2HD0-00VR-R3XX-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

April 13, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 7

**Length:** 242 words

**Byline:** Iain Climie

**Body**

Sean Rickard makes some good comments on subsidies (Environment comment, April 6) but does not mention their potential to safeguard food supplies. Severe crop losses from bad weather occurred in the UK last year and because of a heatwave in Europe in 2003, possibly due to ***climate change*** from human activities.

Routine weather variation or disease may also wreak havoc on both crops and livestock. Yet how do conventional economic policies cope with over-production?

Unsubsidised gluts can simply bankrupt western farmers, as notoriously shown by the US Freedom to Farm fiasco. Subsidies and quotas were removed, production soared, prices crashed and many farmers went bust.

Subsidised gluts, however, may be used wastefully (for example, grain fed to livestock or used for brewing) or dumped on to poorer countries with devastating effects on their economies. Storage is the obvious answer, but who builds the facilities, pays the subsidies and buys up the surplus production?

To be fair, poverty, conflict and deranged politicians can guarantee hunger in a world of plenty while some events (asteroid strikes or huge volcanic eruptions) may be simply too hard to handle. Yet there are many sensible (albeit expensive) measures to guard against more manageable crop losses. Unfortunately, the obvious question, "who is actually responsible for ensuring such backup?" has a simple, brutal answer. No one.

Iain Climie , Whitchurch

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** WEATHER (78%); FOOD CHARITIES (78%); AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); PRICES (78%); LETTERS & COMMENTS (73%); POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS (73%); EXTREME TEMPERATURES (72%); HEAT WAVES (72%); ECONOMIC NEWS (56%); VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS (52%)

**Industry:** CROP PRODUCTION (90%); LIVESTOCK (78%); AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (78%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (73%)

**Geographic:** EUROPE (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Public Manager: Ins and outs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HC6-CMJ0-00VR-R05N-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 19, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 10

**Length:** 184 words

**Body**

Julie Jones , the deputy chief executive, children and community services at Westminster city council is the new president of the Association of Directors of Social Services.

The Department for Work and Pensions has unveiled Lesley Strathie as the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

She has been acting chief executive since May.

Gill Taylor , currently chief executive of Burnley borough council has been appointed chief executive of the of the new Academy for Sustainable Communities. Based in Leeds, the academy will develop a workforce with the skills to deliver and maintain sustainable communities across the country.

Sir Nicholas Stern , currently second permanent secretary to the Treasury, has been appointed as adviser to the government on the economics of ***climate change***.

Worcestershire county council has appointed Richard Hubbard as director of children's services. He was previously director of children's services at West Berkshire council.

Phil Norrey , 42, currently the director of education at Devon county council has been appointed as its chief executive.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** EXECUTIVES (92%); APPOINTMENTS (91%); EXECUTIVE MOVES (90%); SOCIAL JUSTICE (90%); COUNTY GOVERNMENT (90%); CITY GOVERNMENT (78%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); COUNTIES (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); SUSTAINABILITY (76%); LABOR FORCE (75%); CITIES (73%); TREASURY DEPARTMENTS (72%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (71%)

**Industry:** TREASURY DEPARTMENTS (72%)

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Society: Time to switch: A London council has led the way on renewable energy - and other local authorities are in pursuit. Terry Slavin reports***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GY8-0ST0-00VR-R43J-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

August 24, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Society Pages, Pg. 10

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** Terry Slavin

**Body**

A year ago, Adrian Hewitt, principal environment officer of Merton council in south-west London, devised a groundbreaking ruling that 10% of energy requirements in all new commercial developments in the borough must be met with on-site renewable solutions. Now, Hewitt reckons there is a revolution in the making, claiming that "dozens" of councils over the next 18 months will follow Merton's lead to champion solar power, wind turbines, and combined heat and power. "What Merton has done with its radical 10% policy is to demonstrate the power of local government to combat ***climate change*** while also driving the renewable energy market," Hewitt says.

According to Hewitt, councils will be more likely to implement renewable energy solutions because of John Prescott's revised planning policy statement PPS22, published by the deputy prime minister last year. Hewitt says it has "kicked open a door" to the championing of renewables technologies in planning, as councils can now be certain they are on safe legal ground. "We needed to create a level playing field for the policy and now we've got it," he explains.

Local authorities, says Hewitt, could collectively succeed in creating a stable market for renewable energy - unlike Whitehall, which has signally failed to implement the promises of two energy white papers.

Merton's year-old policy applies to commercial developments exceeding 1,000 sq metres, but there are plans for it to be expanded to include all new residential property. The estimated value of the environmental technologies that will be installed as a result of the policy is £3m a year.

In London alone, 18 of 33 local authorities are looking at imposing a similar requirement, and north and south Devon, Sefton and Oldham are among councils that have already included such a requirement in their draft development plans. Cities such as Leicester, Newcastle, Liverpool and Edinburgh are actively considering a renewables requirement. "If 250 of the largest 400 boroughs had this (rule), it racks up to monumental sums of money: £710m a year," says Hewitt.

Sebastian Berry, micro-renewables policy manager of the Renewable Power Association, says Merton's ini tiative has shown that London mayor Ken Livingstone's targets for the take-up of renewable technologies in the capital could be fulfilled. Livingstone's energy strategy for London, published last year, set targets to generate electricity and heat from up to 40,000 renewable energy schemes by 2010, with specific targets for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar heating, wind turbines and combined heat and power.

Hewitt says the strategy was the result of pressure from Merton and other pro-active London councils such as Croydon. According to Berry: "Merton has demonstrated that it can work."

Considering that solar thermal, the biggest source of renewable energy in the UK, now has an annual market of £20m, it would be a quantum leap if Hewitt's projection of a £710m market in renewables technologies could be generated. Berry says: "The potential is there to get government and industry out of the never-ending debate about grant levels by creating standalone markets for these technologies."

Berry points out that the solar industry in particular is in crisis. Two white papers, in 2001 and 2003, made commitments to a specific long-term programme to fund PV cells. Yet three-year funding for the solar demonstration programme is due to end next March, with nothing concrete to replace it - a perilous situation for the 60 companies that are accredited to install PV.

Dave Sowden, chief executive of the Micropower Council, which represents home-based energy generation, has doubts about whether enough councils can be marshalled. "The difficulty with individual local authorities is that you need a shining light, like Hewitt or Eddy Taylor (in Croydon) to push it through. If national government laid down requirements to do it, it would be an enormous boost."

In Croydon the 10% requirement has already been extended to all housing developments above 10 units, as well as commercial developments. The policy has been in force since October 2003 and "carries weight", says Eddy Taylor, the council's environment and sustainability official.

He accepts that renewable technologies may not be the most cost-effective way to reduce CO 2 emissions and suggests there can be flexibility if developers propose other ways to cut emissions. "But (10%) is the only game in town that's got momentum behind it, so it's worth pursuing."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (90%); CITY GOVERNMENT (89%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY (77%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (73%); PRIME MINISTERS (70%)

**Industry:** ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (94%); SOLAR ENERGY (90%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (90%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (89%); WIND POWER PLANTS (89%); WIND ENERGY (89%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (89%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (78%); ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY (74%); ELECTRICITY MARKETS (74%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (91%); LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND (68%)

**Load-Date:** August 24, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Specieswatch***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H7T-2200-00VR-R080-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 3, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Weather Pages, Pg. 31

**Length:** 484 words

**Byline:** Paul Brown

**Body**

Adapting to ***climate change*** is one of the great challenges facing both man and nature, and there will be winners and losers as the world warms. Already the mix of species of birds and insects making their home in the UK is changing, and perhaps the most delightful new resident is the Little Egret (Egretta garzetta).

This small white heron with big yellow feet (illustrated below) came to Britain in the warm 1990s and, after a few years of indecision, first nested on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in Dorset in 1996.

Since then colonies of Little Egrets have been established along the south coast and as far north as Anglesey on the west coast, and this year a pair successfully reared young in Lincolnshire. By 2002 there were estimated to be between 146 and 162 successful breeding pairs. They often nest among the more familiar and much larger grey heron which shares the same habitat. The two species seem amicable.

Little Egrets have the engaging habit of standing in the mud in shallow water wiggling their long yellow toes. Perhaps the toes look like worms because they have the effect of attracting all sorts small fish, crabs and the like, which make a tasty meal.

The UK is the most northerly habitat of the Little Egret, which is more normally seen in the Mediterranean and warmer zones like the Middle East and India.

There are those that claim the Little Egret has been in the UK before and its presence is not due to a warmer climate. The theory is that the species was wiped out during the Victorian era when the fashion for white egret feathers in hats led to widespread hunting across Europe and India to provide material for an increasingly valuable trade.

The sensibilities of some English ladies were disturbed by the slaughter and in 1889 in Didsbury near Manchester, some women (we hope they were Guardian readers) met to start a committee to save the egret from extinction, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) was born. On this theory, the return of the egret, steadily creeping north along the coast of France, has taken a century.

But according to Graham Madge of the RSPB, there is no previous evidence that egrets have bred in the UK and it was merely reports of the slaughter of such beautiful birds that had so upset the women of Didsbury.

His belief is bolstered by the fact that two more egrets, the cattle egret and the great white egret have also been sighted in Britain this year - although so far there have been no reports of successful breeding. Both these species are from warmer climes too and it is widely expected they will follow their cousins and also start to breed in the UK.

Autumn is the time of peak numbers after a successful breeding season and as many as 100 Little Egrets have been seen roosting at Thorney Deeps in West Sussex. A single cattle egret has been sighted in Bedfordshire.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** BIRDS (89%); COASTAL AREAS (89%); MAMMALS (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (72%)

**Geographic:** MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); EUROPE (73%); INDIA (69%); MIDDLE EAST (54%)

**Load-Date:** October 3, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Stalemate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GCX-2MM0-TX0B-N37J-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

June 13, 2005

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**Length:** 1064 words

**Highlight:** Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's roundup of the best of the day's papers.

**Body**

BRITAIN REFUSES TO BUDGE ON REBATE

Who needs aid more, African farmers or French? We've been hearing quite a lot recently about European dairy cows with annual incomes greater than half the world's population. So while a deal on African debt relief makes the papers very happy this morning, the threat to Britain's EU rebate causes infinitely more concern.

The foreign secretary, Jack Straw, facing isolation and condemnation over Britain's GBP3.2bn rebate, came out fighting. The proposed EU budget is "wasteful and unfair", he told reporters after a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg. Waving a copy of the 21-year-old rebate agreement negotiated by Margaret Thatcher, Mr Straw threw down the gauntlet to French president Jacques Chirac. Looking for ways to economise? Let's scrap the GBP7bn the EU pays to French farmers.

Fired with a missionary self-interest, Straw argued: "Over 40% of the proposed spending will go on .the Common Agricultural Policy. to sustain high prices for continental farmers and to keep out cheaper exports .from Africa.".

The French retorted that the rebate "undermines EU solidarity". Wait. Didn't you just reject the EU constitution?

The Independent, ever ready with a infographic, provides a handy visual guide to the EU budget, where you can compare per capita inputs and CAP subsidies. An even handier graphic in the Times makes plain that 24 EU nations want to scrap the rebate while only six want CAP cuts.

The FT adds that the EU is likely to extend the ratification process for the EU constitution beyond the November 2006 deadline, presumably to give governments more time to get the thing past their electorates.

That segues nicely with a Telegraph leader that argues France is making outrageous demands to deflect attention for its resounding "non". The rebate is more valid than ever, the paper says, and the EU is more determined than ever to ignore the French and Dutch voters and press ahead with the rejected constitution.

\* UK launches offensive on EU rebate

\* Telegraph: The EU no votes can't just be laughed off

\* FT: Period of treaty ratification set to be extended

BROWN SECURES DEBT DEAL

Back in the world of pre-G8 negotiations, Gordon Brown has secured a deal from the G7 finance ministers that will wipe out GBP22bn of debts owed by the world's 18 poorest counties to the World Bank and the IMF, with more to come as further countries meet conditions for claiming debt cancellation.

The Telegraph pronounces itself pleased with the debt deal, and bored with the topic. Countries whose debts are cancelled should realise this is a once-in-a-millennium deal, the paper argues, and not come looking for more debt relief until the year 3000.

If you want that to happen, says the Guardian, then establish an independent arbitration system to stop an unsustainable and unfair debt situation developing again.

\* Brown urges rich countries to act now

\* The first step forward

\* Telegraph: That's enough debt relief

PREGNANT WOMAN MURDERED IN WILTSHIRE

The Mirror and the Daily Mail give over their front pages to the murder of Hayley Richards. The pregnant 23-year-old was found dead in her flat. Her ex-boyfriend, Hugo Quintas, is believed to have left the UK for Portugal hours after her death, and Interpol has been alerted.

The Mail claims police officers delayed arresting or questioning Mr Quintas after Ms Richards contacted police to tell them her ex-boyfriend had tried to kill her. Six days after the complaint, she was dead.

\* Interpol joins hunt for suspect

\* Mirror: Pregnant mum murdered

'KELLY HOURS' TO HELP WORKING PARENTS Most papers cover the proposed extension of the school day to provide working-hours care for children under age 14, a scheme the government is calling "Kelly hours". Schools would be open from 8am to 6pm, with breakfast clubs and after-hours activities to engage children, all to be provided by 2010. The education secretary, Ruth Kelly, is due to announce details of the plan today.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown in the Independent argues that children of poor families who will benefit from Kelly hours would have more time for "informal and creative social mixing" with children of more well-off families, who will also benefit. That would do both classes some good, she believes.

"Tory right-wingers are sure to blast away at the interfering nanny state that is New Labour," she warns.

As if to spite her, the Daily Mail welcomes the idea of Kelly hours, though it wonders as Alibhai-Brown does how "hard-pressed head teachers ... will find time to turn schools into community centres" on a budget of GBP680m.

But just to give the Independent a bit of what it expected, the Mail bizarrely adds: "If the government is really committed to 'family friendly' policies, it could start by using the tax system to support married couples raising children rather than discriminate against them." Whatever.

\* Dawn to dusk care plan for schools

\* Independent: Kelly will make it easier for private schools to receive public funding

TYSON: I'M A DISGRACE

Mike Tyson has resolved not to step back into the ring after a humiliating defeat to Irish boxer Kevin McBride.

"I don't have the stomach for this any more," Tyson admitted, after slumping to the canvas in defeat after six rounds of an "embarrassingly awful performance", as the Guardian puts it. "I just don't have the guts to disgrace the sport any more," he added.

\* Tyson reduced from force of nature to weary quitter

\* Sun: Humbled Tyson quits

NEW MEN OF THE NORTHERN CONGO

Surely no one can beat the Swedes when it comes to sharing childcare: Swedish men do 45% of the parental workload.

But just in time for father's day (it's on Sunday - still plenty of time to post a card), a study has identified a hunter-gatherer tribe in northern Congo as the world's most committed fathers.

Not only do Aka Pigmy men spend 47% of their time holding or within reach of their infants, they routinely let their babies suck on their nipples for comfort if mother isn't around to offer milk. It works perfectly, according to the FatherWorld report.

British fathers ranked fourth best in the Western world, doing about 33% of childcare.

\* Times: Breast is still best, even if it is Dad's

COMING UP ON GUARDIAN UNLIMITED TODAY

Ruth Kelly unveils a GBP680m plan that could see schools open from 8am to 6pm.

Tony Blair will urge Vladimir Putin to back Britain's G8 agenda on Africa and ***climate change***.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** EUROPEAN UNION (92%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (90%); INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (89%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (89%); AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY REGULATION (78%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (78%); AGREEMENTS (77%); PUBLIC DEBT (77%); TALKS & MEETINGS (76%); PUBLIC POLICY (76%); PUBLIC FINANCE (76%); PUBLIC FINANCE AGENCIES & TREASURIES (75%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (74%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (73%); PRICES (73%); EXPORT TRADE (71%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (68%)

**Company:**  FINANCIAL TIMES GROUP (54%)

**Industry:** BUDGETS (90%); AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY REGULATION (78%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (78%); AGRICULTURE REGULATION & POLICY (78%); BUDGET PROPOSALS (75%); PUBLIC FINANCE AGENCIES & TREASURIES (75%); AGRICULTURE (73%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (68%)

**Person:** JACK STRAW (76%); GORDON BROWN (59%); JACQUES CHIRAC (58%)

**Geographic:** EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (94%); FRANCE (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); EUROPE (92%); LUXEMBOURG (79%)

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Striking out on their own***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G94-F9B0-TX0B-N2F5-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

May 24, 2005

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**Length:** 1713 words

**Highlight:** Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's round-up of the best of the day's papers.

**Body**

Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's round-up of the best of the day's papers.

Also in today's Wrap: Daleks roam as BBC staff strike, five girls dead in Irish bus crash, Wilkinson rescues Lions.

STRIKING OUT ON THEIR OWN

The Wrap joked yesterday that with so many BBC journalists on strike, the shape of the news agenda may be a little more blurry than usual. That prediction is arguably fulfilled today by the huge variety of different lead stories in this morning's national newspapers.

The Guardian leads with news that Tony Blair is to undertake a whirlwind tour to meet world leaders and press for a consensus on his ambitious agenda for the G8 presidency and July's summit in Gleneagles. The prime minister is hoping to reach agreements on Africa and ***climate change*** but the Guardian says the agenda is "crumbling due to US opposition".

The Financial Times is more interested in the chancellor, Gordon Brown, who the newspaper says will today challenge business to match its rhetoric on red tape by producing a hit list of redundant government regulations. The move is part of the government's promise to drive forward its reform plans, the FT says.

Leading the way in the Times is a call by the director of public prosecutions, Ken Macdonald, to replace the single offence of murder with a series of "homicide" offences with different gradations of seriousness, as in the US system. Mr Macdonald tells the paper that most murder convictions would retain mandatory life sentences if the changes took place and that some offenders slipped through the net currently.

On the front page in the Independent is a photograph of the Crystal Skull from the British Museum, which was revealed to be a fake earlier this year. The photograph adorns a story claiming that most of the antiquities on sale in Britain are either stolen or fakes, according to a British Museum scientist.

Meanwhile, the Telegraph leads with a report on the race for the leadership of the Conservative party, saying David Davis has thrust himself to the fore by promising to make opposition to ID cards the first set-piece battle of Labour's third term.

The Daily Mail is indignant that the families of 55 servicemen killed in Iraq are still awaiting inquests on the deaths because of funding problems. It says the inquests are stalled while the Ministry of Defence can find GBP100,000 to take a court party, including six paratroopers accused of murdering an Iraqi teenager, to Iraq on a fact finding mission.

Meanwhile the Express highlights the death of an 18-year-old marine, Richard Campbell-Smith, who died after scratching his leg on a training run and becoming infected by a rare toxin linked to the MRSA bug. The Telegraph, which also has a page one story on the death, says Mr Campbell-Smith's death has sparked fears of an "incurable new superbug".

\* Blair dash to shore up Africa plan

\*FT: Brown gets set to cut red tape

\*Independent: British Museum expert highlights growing problem of fake antiquities

\*Telegraph: Davis makes his stand on civil liberties

\*Telegraph: Death sparks fear of incurable new superbug

LATTE-FUELLED GUERRILLAS?

As between up to 15,000 BBC staff went on a 24-hour strike yesterday, Daleks roamed the pavement near a picket line in Cardiff, where Doctor Who is made, today's Guardian reports.

By all accounts, the strike by journalists, producers and technicians over plans to cut almost 4,000 jobs was good natured, with "latte-drinking" pickets (the Independent) politely handing out leaflets to the strike breakers. The Times says that, as picketing goes, yesterday was a "nice affair".

But some analysts in today's newspapers foresee more vexed and fractious times ahead if the dispute rumbles on. A headline in the Telegraph says the BBC is facing a "summer of guerrilla action" unless it backs down on plans to axe thousands of jobs. A 48-hour strike is planned for next week and more action will follow.

Several flagship programmes had to be either ditched yesterday or ran patched up versions, some with presenters brought out of retirement, the Telegraph reports.

The Guardian zeroes in on comments by the BBC's director general, Mark Thompson, that the upheaval caused by yesterday's action was a "price worth paying" to push through his reforms.

Unions called the strike the most successful in the BBC's history. In today's coverage, many of today's papers are diverted by running lists of who came in to work and who did not. DJs Terry Wogan, Chris Moyles and Jo Whiley worked, as did Five Live's Shelagh Fogarty and BBC Breakfast's Declan Curry. High-profile presenters who did not cross the picket lines included Jeremy Paxman, John Humphrys, Nicky Campbell, George Alagiah, Fiona Bruce and Natasha Kaplinsky.

Robert Hanks in the Independent says the BBC was never shy of filling the schedule with repeats and yesterday was just a case of having to slip in "a few extras".

The Guardian's media editor, Matt Wells, writes that the strike is directly linked to negotiations between the BBC and the government over the renewal of the corporation's royal charter, which expires at the end of next year and which sets the licence fee level. Wells says Mr Thompson is under pressure to show that the BBC is cutting out inefficiency and notes that staff levels grew by more than 6,000 to almost 29,000 when Greg Dyke was director general.

\* BBC strike price 'worth paying'

\*Licence fee talks that motivated bosses' tough stance

\*Telegraph: Strike-hit BBC faces summer of guerrilla action by unions

\*Independent: Flagship shows hit as thousands stay at home

\*Times: More chaos threatened

IVF TREATMENT A 'POSTCODE LOTTERY'

The success rates of different IVF clinics have been detailed in a report for the first time, and it indicates success is a "postcode lottery", the Mail reports.

Some clinics produce babies in more than half of attempts, while others are successful in only one in 10 cases, according to the report by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

FIVE GIRLS KILLED IN IRISH BUS CRASH

Five teenage girls were killed yesterday and six schoolchildren seriously injured after a bus crashed into a ditch near Kentstown, Co Meath, in the Republic of Ireland. Some of the survivors were trapped in the wreckage for almost an hour and alerted parents with their mobile phones. In total 46 children were injured in the crash.

\* Five teenage girls killed as Irish school bus overturns

\*Times: Five children die as school coach overturns in crash

COMMONS PROTESTERS IN COURT

There is much coverage of yesterday's appearance in court of eight pro-hunt campaigners who stormed into the House of Commons during a fox hunting debate in September last year.

The headline in the Express calls it a "daring raid" while in the Independent the focus is more on the fear of security staff and MPs that they were under terrorist attack.

Bow Street magistrates court in central London heard that Otis Ferry, 22, son of the rock star Bryan Ferry, masterminded the protest. The court heard he had brought hard hats and fluorescent jackets to disguise the group as builders and had drawn a detailed map of the route to the chamber.

The Guardian describes the fights on the floor of the Commons, which, it says, descended into "bedlam" during the protest.

Mr Ferry is huntmaster with the South Shropshire hunt. Another of the accused, Luke Tomlinson, 28, is a professional polo player and close friend of Prince William and Prince Harry.

The eight defendants all deny using threatening, abusive or insulting words or disorderly behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress on September 15 last year.

\* How lapses and luck led to fights on floor of the Commons

\*Independent: MPs thought hunt invasion was terror attack, court is told

\*Times: Armed attack fear for MPs in hunt protester invasion

WILKINSON PASSES LATIN TEST

Jonny Wilkinson spared the blushes of the Lions in Cardiff yesterday in the last kick of the game to level the score with Argentina on 25 points each. The Telegraph notes that Wilkinson, playing his first international game in 18 months, scored 20 points himself.

Meanwhile, the excitement is growing in the sports pages ahead of Liverpool's European Champions League final against AC Milan in Istanbul tomorrow night.

The Sun has a picture of the Liverpool skipper, Steven Gerrard, boarding the team's flight to Turkey at John Lennon airport yesterday with a dream bubble and mocked up picture of him lifting the trophy under the headline "Imagine".

Various reports suggest that Djibril Cisse rather than Milan Baros will play up front for Liverpool.

\*Wilkinson rescues pride of Lions

\*Telegraph: Wilkinson on target to spare blushes

\* Liverpool try out Kewell with Cisse

\*Sun: Imagine

HOME SWEET HOME

Britain is a wonderful place with vibrant cities, one of the most inspirational peoples in the world and a warmth and friendliness that appears to be without bounds.

That is the verdict of the new Lonely Planet guide to Britain. It comes as something of an antidote for anyone who reads the papers regularly and who may be forgiven for believing the country is a dreadful place, terrorised by "feral" hoodie-wearing youths.

The Times reports that the guide salutes Britain's "breathtaking scenery and extraordinary culture" and says it must be right because only three of its nine authors are British.

The Guardian focuses on the guide's praise for British cities and concludes it is no longer "grim up north". The guide calls Manchester one of Britain's "exciting and interesting cities" and hails Newcastle's "miraculous powers of urban regeneration".

It is certainly pleasant to read some good news before the next avalanche of scare stories ...

\*Why it's no longer 'grim up north'

\*Times: Backpackers' bible swears that Britain has been born again

BREAKING NEWS

Pre-tax profits at Marks & Spencer fell 19% to £618.5m during the year to April 2 and the outlook for trading continues to look bleak.

Follow the latest business news here

COMING UP ON GUARDIAN UNLIMITED TODAY

John Aglionby continues his road trip and files a dispatch from Aceh, where he assesses how the locals are rebuilding their lives after the Boxing Day tsunami.

Jon Henley pens his second daily blog from France ahead of this week's referendum on the European constitution.

Matt Biggs writes from the Chelsea flower show.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** STRIKES (90%); MURDER (89%); INVESTIGATIONS (86%); NEWS BRIEFS (78%); HOMICIDE (77%); JOURNALISM (76%); WRITERS (76%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (75%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (75%); PRIME MINISTERS (74%); AGREEMENTS (73%); TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (72%); POLITICAL PARTIES (71%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (70%); SENTENCING (68%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (65%)

**Company:**  FINANCIAL TIMES GROUP (83%)

**Organization:** GROUP OF EIGHT (G8) (56%)

**Industry:** MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (85%); WRITERS (76%); TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (72%)

**Person:** TONY BLAIR (54%); GORDON BROWN (54%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (93%); IRAQ (92%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 24, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Surge in four-wheel drive sales threatens air pollution targets***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FY3-PKG0-00VR-R481-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

April 14, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 11

**Length:** 352 words

**Byline:** Andrew Clark Transport correspondent

**Body**

They are adored by off-road rally drivers and Chelsea mums alike. But the popularity of four-wheel drive "sports utility vehicles" is hampering efforts to cut air pollution on Britain's roads.

Emissions of carbon dioxide from new cars fell significantly for six successive years up to 2003. But the improvement ground to a near-standstill last year, in a slowdown which could jeopardise Britain's chances of meeting Europe-wide exhaust targets.

Average emissions fell by just 0.4% to 171.4g per kilometre in 2004, despite intensive efforts by the government to encourage cleaner fuels. The reduction compared unfavourably to improvements of between 1.2% and 2.2% in prior years.

Although the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the situation was in line with that in other European countries, it blamed the slowdown on soaring sales of so-called "Chelsea tanks", which have drawn derision from campaigners who argue that they are inappropriate for urban use.

A spokeswoman said: "There have been a lot of larger cars on the market in the last year. The drop in emissions is in line with other European countries, but we're looking to improve it all the time."

Sales of four-wheel drive cars jumped by 13% to 179,000 last year, accounting for one in 14 purchases of new vehicles. The vehicles emit up to four times as much pollution as ordinary cars and do far fewer miles to a gallon of fuel.

The government is committed to cutting carbon dioxide emissions to 140g per kilometre for new cars by 2010. The benchmark is central to its Kyoto target of cutting overall CO2 emissions by 20% against 1990 levels.

Tony Bosworth of Friends of the Earth said: "These figures are yet another body blow to government promises to tackle ***climate change***. Whoever wins the election must give motorists more incentive to buy fuel-efficient cars."

Edmund King, director of the RAC Foundation, said: "This news on emissions is disappointing - particularly in a year when we've had record fuel prices, which should make motorists more discerning in picking out fuel-efficient cars."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** EMISSIONS (90%); VEHICLE EMISSIONS (90%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (89%); GREENHOUSE GASES (89%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (89%); AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (78%); MOTORSPORTS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (77%); AIR POLLUTION (77%); OIL & GAS PRICES (74%); ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (72%); SALES & SELLING (68%)

**Company:** MANUFACTURERS & TRADERS TRUST CO  (56%); MANUFACTURERS & TRADERS TRUST CO  (56%);    SOCIETY OF MOTOR MANUFACTURERS & TRADERS LTD  (56%)

**Organization:** SOCIETY OF MOTOR MANUFACTURERS & TRADERS LTD  (56%); SOCIETY OF MOTOR MANUFACTURERS & TRADERS LTD  (56%)

**Industry:** MOTOR VEHICLES (90%); EMISSIONS (90%); VEHICLE EMISSIONS (90%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (89%); SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (78%); AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (78%); OIL & GAS PRICES (74%)

**Geographic:** EUROPE (91%)

**Load-Date:** April 14, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Taking care of orphans***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HDW-J190-TX0B-N243-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

October 27, 2005

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**Length:** 907 words

**Highlight:** Tim Radford on why a team of Scottish scientists are doing what the pharmaceutical industry has chosen not to - find a cure for the world's most neglected diseases

**Body**

Academic research is not just academic. People who stare down a microscope can still see the big picture. And they can get up and do something about it without leaving the ivory tower. Mike Ferguson and Alan Fairlamb, at the University of Dundee, have spent years staring at the molecular biology of a trio of trypanosomatid protozoans. They have begun to know the tiny little beasts literally inside and out.

They can, of course, call on a vast library of other research into the huge family of trypanosomatids, but they are mordantly interested in just three of them. One of these is sleeping sickness, a disease that infects an estimated 400,000 a year in Africa, south of the Sahara. Trypanosoma brucei is spread by the tsetse fly: it swims through the bloodstream to the cerebrospinal fluid, colonises the brain and causes character disintegration, coma and death. The second is a central and south American cousin called T. cruzi: a bite from an assassin bug can sentence you to decades of a chronic illness called Chagas' disease and a high chance of death by heart attack. An estimated 16 million people have it. The third - a more distant relative called leishmania - is spread by tiny sand flies and triggers hideous facial ulcers, or appalling liver, bone marrow and spleen infections: it is variously known as leishmaniasis, kala azar or dumdum fever and it infects an estimated 12 million in Africa and Asia.

The drugs available are dodgy, or even dangerous. Sleeping sickness is treated by an injection of an arsenic-based compound in antifreeze, a medicine so nasty it kills 5% of patients outright. Chagas' disease is treated by a drug that only works if you pound the parasite within two weeks of infection, and so toxic that one patient in five cannot take it at all.

Leishmania can be treated, but drug resistant strains are everywhere, and anyway, the people most at risk from such diseases are the ones who have to get by on an income of a dollar or two a day. They can't afford medical care, so they fall ill. Once ill, they cannot earn the money to pay for treatment. So the big pharmaceutical companies have done more or less nothing. Sleeping sickness, leishmaniasis and Chagas' disease are what are known as "orphan" diseases.

So far, so obvious. The least that scientists can do is point such things out, and they do it all the time. The Lancet has been urging for a blitz on chronic diseases, and points out this week that if national health agencies in India, China, Brazil, Tanzania and so on tried to reduce deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer by just 2% a year, they could save 36 million lives by 2015. This week the president of the Royal Society, Lord May, warned that the value of aid promised at Gleneagles to Africa could be wiped out by droughts, floods and storms linked to ***climate change***. In doing so, he is not playing politics: he is keeping science's side of the bargain with the taxpayer. Knowledge is power, but only if the knowledge is shared.

But the scientists at Dundee, backed by Wellcome Trust money, plan to do a bit more than just share their knowledge. They plan to start doing what the pharmaceutical companies normally do. Find a cure.

The perfect drug would kill a parasite without making the patient feel worse. The challenge is to identify the precise bit of trickery that gets the parasite past the first line of defence, the human immune system, and then to finger a piece of vital machinery in the invader that is entirely different from the cellular machinery of the host. The Dundee scientists think they have spotted both. The bonus is that all three sickening little organisms share the same target features. They have proved that the parasites cannot survive without these mechanisms, and they now know exactly what these bits of biochemistry look like.

So far, so academic. They have made a blueprint of the works. The next step is to find exactly the right size and shape of spanner to throw into the works. That is a role normally left to what scientists call "big pharma". It can take 10 years and 100m to take a drug from a bright idea to a brightly packaged pill, but the Dundee team want to get halfway there and present the drugs companies - or the World Health Organisation, or a big medical charity - with a molecule they can turn into a treatment for all three diseases. So they have begun to assemble a library of 100,000 candidate compounds, and bought in a new professorial colleague from industry to set up a robotic screening process that might sift out maybe 100 with promising properties. Then they will test these for effectiveness in laboratory dishes, and on infected mammals. Within five years, they could have something that somebody can use to start to break the vicious cycle of sickness and poverty in the tropics and subtropics. They may eventually shame the big pharmaceutical companies, but - pointedly - they don't blame them.

"I am not casting aspersions at the pharmaceutical industry or saying what terrible people they are. They are responsible to their shareholders and we are their shareholders - we are all pension policy holders - so we have to point the finger at ourselves," says Prof Ferguson. "The problem is not any lack of ability to develop drugs against these organisms. It has just been the lack of will to do it. The people who need these drugs have no money to pay for them and, therefore, they have been pushed off the agenda."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** TROPICAL DISEASES (91%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (90%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (90%); CHRONIC DISEASES (87%); BIOLOGY (78%); CANCER (78%); PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (78%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (78%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (77%); SKIN DISORDERS (75%); HEART DISEASE (75%); BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC SCIENCE (73%); MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (73%); STROKES (68%)

**Industry:** PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRY (78%); ORPHAN DRUGS (75%); DRUG RESISTANCE (66%); PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MFG (63%)

**Geographic:** AFRICA (87%); TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF (79%); BRAZIL (79%); INDIA (78%); CHINA (74%); SOUTH AMERICA (56%); ASIA (54%)

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Taking Darling's tolls***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GC8-5RC0-TX0B-N2N9-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

June 10, 2005

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**Length:** 1502 words

**Highlight:** Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's roundup of the best of the day's papers.

**Body**

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

It is bad enough, in the eyes of the Star, that Britons must be monitored by satellite as they drive around the country and charged for the journeys they make. "HIGHWAY ROBBERY", splashes the paper, which doctors a photo of the mild-mannered transport secretary, Alistair Darling, to show him holding a shotgun. According to the Telegraph, we may soon be prosecuted for mocking Satanists, too. More on that later.

The Telegraph is also unhappy with Mr Darling's plans for road tolls, partly because fuel-efficient cars would pay the same as "gas guzzlers". The paper also points to difficulties with existing "spy-in-the-sky" systems.

The Guardian welcomes the proposals - with a couple of caveats. "The dangers are twofold: that in tackling congestion the government will end up doing little to tackle ***climate change***, and that an increase in the cost of motoring will penalise the less well off."

\* Green anger at plan to tax journeys, not gas-guzzlers

\* Time to charge

\* Telegraph: 'Gas guzzlers' to escape steeper road charge

ANTI-HATRED BILL TO PROTECT 'EXTREMIST' GROUPS

Back to the satanists. "Extremist religious groups that advocate child abuse will be given protection under the .Racial and Religious Hatred. bill published by the government yesterday," splashes the Telegraph. "Satanists, pagans and atheists would be protected. Having good reason for making insulting comments that could provoke hatred of a particular religious doctrine would be no defence, nor would the fact that they were true."

In its editorial, the paper complains that "religious belief" is not defined in the bill. It adds that the words "likely to" in connection with stirring up religious hatred "do not encourage confidence".

The Guardian's Polly Toynbee also attacks the bill. "Race is something people cannot choose and it defines nothing about them as people. But beliefs are what people choose to identify with: in the rough and tumble of argument, to call people stupid for their beliefs is legitimate (if perhaps unwise), but to brand them stupid on account of their race is a mortal insult. The two cannot be blurred into one - which is why the word Islamophobia is a nonsense. ... This most secular state in the world, with fewest worshippers at any altars, should be a beacon of secularism in a world beset by religious bloodshed. Instead, our politicians twitch nervously in a lily-livered capitulation to unreason."

\* New hate law 'could have stopped race riots'

\* Polly Toynbee

\* Telegraph: Satanists to be protected

\* Telegraph: A flimsy bill

CHIRAC URGES UK TO MAKE 'GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY'

Tony Blair and Jacques Chirac exchanged barbs over the vexed subject of Britain's EU budget rebate yesterday.

"The time has come for our English friends to understand that they have to make a gesture of solidarity for Europe," the French president said.

"Over the past ten years," Mr Blair responded, "even with the British rebate, we have been making a contribution into Europe two-and-a-half times that of France. Without the rebate, it would have been 15 times as much as France. That is our gesture."

Mr Chirac will not budge over aid to French farmers, a key sticking point between Britain and France.

The FT, meanwhile, tells Dominique de Villepin to accept that France is already "living globalisation". The paper appears to have little confidence in the French PM's 100-day deadline to turn the country's economy around: "After his escape from Elba, Napoleon had 100 days to mobilise his troops before Waterloo. And we all know what happened then."

\* Blair rebuffs Chirac on EU rebate

\* FT: Blair at odds with EU states on rebate

MUGABE DEFENDS RAZING OF SHANTY TOWNS

The Independent splashes with a special report from Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe has ordered the demolition of "illegal dwellings", ostensibly in an effort to crack down on the black economy. Thousands of people have lost their homes and livelihoods.

The paper's special correspondent - Mr Mugabe has banned most journalists, including the BBC, from reporting in Zimbabwe - says more than 30,000 people have been arrested. The opposition MDC party has urged people to strike in protest - "but it is virtually impossible for the 'stay away' action to work in a country where only 800,000 from a population of 12m have formal employment." Police have threatened to arrest employers if their businesses shut.

\* Mugabe defends razing of shanty towns

\* Independent: Inside Zimbabwe

DUNCAN LAUNCHES TORY LEADERSHIP BID

"The Tories need a gay leader, and I'm the man for the job," says Alan Duncan as he effectively launches his leadership bid in the Telegraph today.

The 48-year-old grins cheerfully from the front page, but the paper rather spoils things by publishing a much bigger picture of Liam Fox and his new fiancee alongside Mr Duncan's observations about the state of the party.

The leadership contest is already a "crowded field", Mr Duncan says, but "parliamentary opinion is 90 percent fluid." He compares the party's plight to that of Marks and Spencer: "Like M&S, we need both a good CEO and better frilly knickers."

\* Pressure grows for early Tory contest

\* Telegraph: Gay leader 'would be good'

PAINKILLER LINKED TO HEART ATTACKS

The over-the-counter painkiller ibuprofen has been linked to an increased risk of heart attacks, according to the Guardian and the Mail.

Researchers at Nottingham University looked at 9,218 patients, aged between 25 and 100, who had suffered a first heart attack. "They found that the risk ... was increased in those who had taken .non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, or NSAIDs. in the three months before their heart attack," reports the Guardian. "For ibuprofen, the risk rose by almost a quarter - higher if they had been on it longer."

The results are likely to worry the nine million Britons who suffer from arthritis and use NSAIDs to control the pain.

\* 'Safe' drug link to heart attacks

'SHAZZA' WARMS UP FOR WIMBLEDON

Fans of Maria Sharapova will be pleased to hear that the Russian tennis player is creeping back into the papers as Wimbledon approaches. "Shazza" - as the Sun has now dubbed her - reached the quarter-finals of the DFS Classic at Edgbaston yesterday after a difficult match with the Australian Samantha Stosur.

The front page of the Guardian pictures the young British hope Andy Murray sprawled in pain. He was felled by cramp towards the end of a promising match against the world number 20, Thomas Johansson, and damaged his ankle. "The young Scot shouts, screams and throws rackets - yesterday at Queen's he chucked it to the ground THREE times," says the Sun. "He even works the crowd."

".His. spirit was willing, even if he was fearful that his legs might not be able to sustain him," reports the Times, sadly.

The paper leads with details of Malcolm Glazer's plans for Manchester United, which look certain to enrage fans. The club's new owner intends to raise ticket prices by 54% by 2010, and the club's transfer budget will be capped at GBP25m each year. Wayne Rooney alone cost United GBP27m.

\* Murray battles before a fall

\* Times: Revealed: Glazer's plan

SPACED OUT

Has the Sun finally lost it? The paper splashes today with an aerial photo of a crop circle in Wiltshire with five interlocking rings at its centre. "ALIENS BACK OUR BID ... Britain's bid to host the Olympics received an out-of-this-world boost yesterday ... Locals reckoned it was a sign from above that London will win the 2012 bid."

Those country yokels, eh? They'll believe anything. "But the Sun came clean last night and admitted that we pulled the stunt."

Hard to credit, isn't it? "The whole galaxy is behind Britain's bid," a Sun spokesman tells, er, the paper. This is so manifestly untrue that the Wrap had to calm down by jumping up and down on the tabloid a few times.

Meanwhile, the FT's entertaining young columnist Sathnam Sanghera is dispatched to the Whiskas factory to meet the resident feline tasters. "Even the editor of Your Cat magazine hasn't been accorded such a privilege," Sanghera writes.

We learn that French cat owners prefer cat food with vegetables in it. "Cats don't have any money," explains the manager of Waltham's Food and Behaviour Team, "so we have to appeal to the owner as well."

Sanghera enquires whether humans ever taste the food. "On an ad hoc basis, people may, y'know, have a taste. In the factories we have a quality control panel, and at that point people will break it, sniff it, and occasionally taste it."

There's more - but for the sake of readers who may be enjoying a late breakfast, we'll leave it there.

\* Sun: Aliens back our bid

COMING UP ON GUARDIAN UNLIMITED TODAY

Tony Blair will hold talks with MEPs as he continues to resist calls from France to give up all or part of Britain's GBP3bn a year EU rebate.

The PM and Gordon Brown will seek promises of support for their plans to help Africa as they host G8 finance ministers.

Administrators to collapsed car maker MG Rover will reveal what progress they have made in their attempts to salvage parts of the business.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** RELIGION (89%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (87%); RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION (87%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (73%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (72%); AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (70%); RACE & ETHNICITY (70%); RIOTS (67%); EUROPEAN UNION (60%)

**Industry:** TOLL ROADS & TURNPIKES (77%); HIGHWAY FUNDING (77%); AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (70%)

**Person:** ALISTAIR DARLING (71%); TONY BLAIR (52%); JACQUES CHIRAC (50%)

**Load-Date:** June 10, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Editor: From the engineering magazines: Certain death is averted by a twist in the tail***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FXX-2H70-00VR-R3T3-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

April 13, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 26

**Length:** 625 words

**Byline:** Amelia Hodsdon

**Body**

"The building you're in has collapsed. Trapped in a small gap beneath tonnes of rubble, with the smell of gas getting stronger by the minute, there seems little chance that anyone will find you in time," quaked Jon Excell in the Engineer (April 8-21).

But wait: "A mechanical serpent, attracted by the CO2 in your breath and the heat from your body, wriggles towards you . . . As you breathe the oxygen brought by your unusual rescuer, your precise location is beamed to a team of human emergency rescuers." Such is the power of engineering, and the wonders of search and rescue technology, in which "vision, communication and locomotion systems are all stretched to the limit by the smoke, dust, fire and utter confusion of a disaster zone." Snake-arm robots will be put to the test this summer during RoboCup, "an annual event to further artificial intelligence knowledge and expertise". And show off nifty gadgets, no doubt.

"Should we worry that only five civil engineers have put themselves forward as candidates in the general election on May 5?" Antony Oliver asked readers of the New Civil Engineer (April 7). "Without doubt the answer must be yes." The magazine's editor compared this total to architects (9), lawyers (88), teachers (53) and journalists (43).

"These numbers give an idea of the scale of the challenge," he said, "and show the profession's failure to really integrate with the society it purports to work for." Civil engineers have valuable contributions to make on "infrastructure investment, ***climate change***, energy supply, congestion, planning and development", said Oliver, but how can they be heard if they "do not have representation where decisions are made"?

The Millau Viaduct, in southern France, was opened last year to wide acclaim, and was hailed as yet another triumph for its architect, Sir Norman Foster. But the man truly responsible for the design is one Michel Virlogeux, a French civil engineer, reported NCE's sister publication, New Civil Engineer International (April). Foster could take credit for the "detailed shaping", Virlogeux told Andrew Mylius, but not the "global idea". The widespread misapprehension "probably wouldn't have happened 50 or 60 years ago. I am as much at fault as anyone - engineers have become very bad at communication."

One reason to listen carefully to engineers was covered by Paul Grad in Ground Engineering (April). The Boxing Day tsunami and the earthquake on March 28 were both detected - to a varying degree - by early warning systems, but there is still no "deep ocean tsunami warning system" for either the Atlantic or Indian oceans. What is needed, he said, was a version of the US's Dart system in the Pacific Ocean, which uses bottom pressure recorders and takes readings every 15 seconds. However, only more densely distributed, higher fidelity, seismic stations can "fully understand the magnitude" of future earthquakes.

The finer engineering points of deep-sea devices have previously featured in Dredging and Port Construction , but April's issue focused on the environmental aspects of dredging. Mike McCarthy and Chris Webb wrote from Orange County, where their massive project to clean up the Bolsa Chica salt marsh is under way. California "has lost about 95% of its coastal wetlands due to pollution, agriculture and encroaching development", but "preliminary engineering" on the site began in 1997 and the initial dredging should be completed by early 2008. "Repairing the wetlands will take 25 years in total," said McCarthy and Webb, "a truly mammoth effort."

Those yet to improve their environmental record should note an advert at the back of DPC, which offered the maxim, "What you see is what you've dredged."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ENGINEERING (91%); CIVIL ENGINEERING (90%); ARCHITECTURE (89%); TECHNICIANS & TECHNOLOGICAL WORKERS (89%); PROFESSIONAL WORKERS (89%); TSUNAMIS (88%); ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES (78%); DISASTER RELIEF (75%); JOURNALISM (70%); WRITERS (70%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (68%); INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI (68%); ELECTIONS (66%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (66%); BOXING DAY (50%)

**Company:** NEW CIVIL ENGINEER INTERNATIONAL  (75%); NEW CIVIL ENGINEER INTERNATIONAL  (75%)

**Industry:** ENGINEERING (91%); CIVIL ENGINEERING (90%); ARCHITECTURE (89%); TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE (78%); ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES (78%); WRITERS (70%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (68%)

**Geographic:** INDIAN OCEAN (79%); ATLANTIC OCEAN (73%); FRANCE (75%)

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The future of Europe: The coming weeks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G94-B7P0-00VR-R4TJ-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 31, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 5

**Length:** 132 words

**Body**

June 4 EU employment ministers meet to discuss reforms to working time directive - first test of French mood on the social model

June 6 Jack Straw makes Commons statement on implications of French and Dutch referendums. Must judge whether to say a UK referendum is pointless

June 9 After cabinet meet, leader of house Geoff Hoon may have to announce that EU referendum bill will be shelved

June 16 Council of ministers meets to agree response to referendum rejection. Jacques Chirac may attack Tony Blair if Britain is only country refusing to go ahead with ratification

July 2 Britain launches its EU presidency programme lasting to end of year

July 6 and 7

British G8 presidency as world leaders meet in Gleneagles, Scotland, to discuss ***climate change*** and Africa

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** REFERENDUMS (90%); EUROPEAN UNION (90%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (78%); EU PRESIDENCY (78%)

**Company:** GROUP OF EIGHT (G8)   (55%);  GROUP OF EIGHT (G8)  (56%)

**Organization:** GROUP OF EIGHT (G8)   (55%);  GROUP OF EIGHT (G8)  (56%); GROUP OF EIGHT (G8)   (55%);  GROUP OF EIGHT (G8)  (56%)

**Person:** JACQUES CHIRAC (58%); JACK STRAW (57%); TONY BLAIR (57%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (92%); SCOTLAND (79%); EUROPE (79%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 31, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Guardian profile: Adair Turner: 'Very tough and thoughtful. He has stood up to a lot of pressure, including some from Gordon Brown': He is an intellectual with a strong track record. But can he crack the pensions crisis?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HN3-69T0-00VR-R23N-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

November 25, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 17

**Length:** 848 words

**Byline:** Michael White and Patrick Wintour

**Body**

If Adair Turner had been born a Frenchman voters would have had no trouble fitting the former CBI director-general turned pensions troubleshooter into a familiar slot. He is what the French would call an enarque, the fiercely competitive product of Paris's Ecole Nationale d'Administration, deemed effortlessly capable of running state TV one day and Renault the next.

In Britain the route to the higher circles of power is more complicated. But, like his predecessor at the Confederation of British Industry, Howard Davies, and Lord Birt of BBC and No 10 fame, Lord Turner of Ecchinswell's CV contains many elements of the new technocratic priesthood. Cambridge, where he was chairman of the university Tories (he later defected to the centrist SDP) and president of the union; the planning department at BP; posts in academe and City boardrooms; and, crucially, a long stint with McKinsey, the management consultancy whose tentacles stretch everywhere in government and business on both sides of the Atlantic.

Between 1982 and 1994 he rose to become a senior partner, a tribute to his meritocratic credentials. His origins are modest. His grandfather was a wood carver, but his father emerged from Liverpool university as a town planner. Young Adair thus moved from one new town to another, spending teen years in East Kilbride, where he moved from grammar school to smart Glenalmond School, which Tony Blair's friend, Charlie Falconer, attended a few years earlier.

When he publishes his report on long-term pension strategy next Wednesday he may finally become a recognisable name to millions whose retirement prospects will be crucially affected by whether he gets it right or wrong - and whether No 10 upholds him against yesterday's Treasury torpedo.

Those who know him well differ as to his charm. "A cold fish," said one. "Very affable," said another. All agree that he is clever and hard-working, though phrases like "intellectually arrogant" and even "politically naive" pop up.

"A charming man. His strength is strategic vision rather than detail, but he also kept a rein on the finances," said Chris Bryant, an MP who served with him on the Britain in Europe campaign. "A delight to work with," said Professor John Hills, who served with him on the pension team. "Very tough and thoughtful," said a former cabinet minister. "Gordon Brown would say he responds to the last person who impressed him. That's unfair. He's stood up to a lot of pressure, including some from Gordon."

Lord Turner made his maiden speech in the Lords last week with a dense speech on ***climate change***. Though his Euro-vision is said to be Brown-ish and pro-reform, he is closer to No 10 than No 11. Worse, next week's report looks like straying on to Mr Brown's territory by implicitly rejecting his means-testing strategy for tackling pensioner poverty - and spending lots of Treasury cash pumping up the basic state pension.

Now 50, married to Orna (they have two teenage daughters) he came to his current embattled role via an advisory role in the Blair government's forward strategy unit and a deft chairmanship of the Low Pay Commission.

In addressing the pensions crisis, Lord Turner has faced the biggest intellectual challenge of his career, looking to find a consensus on one of the most technical and politically charged issues facing the country. It has meant working with three work and pensions secretaries, trying to decipher what an only semi-cooperative Treasury will wear. The issues were interconnected: how big is the British savings crisis? Are specific groups like women suffering most?

It gets worse. Can means testing, necessary to cure pension poverty in the short term, bring a long-term solution? Is the decline in savings caused by the notorious complexity of the system? And is compulsory savings a solution, or simply going to lead to higher prices, as the cost of higher contributions is passed on to consumers by companies?

Lord Turner has been brutally frank that the current system is unsustainable. In 1950, Britons spent 18% of their adult life in retirement, and now spend 30%. The solution lies in a mix of higher taxes, a later retirement age and higher semi-enforced savings, he believes.

Turner the technocrat tried to reach an ambitious consensus around his preferred solution: a higher basic state pension as the key to ending pensioner poverty, plus a device requiring people to opt out of occupational pensions, not in. It amounts to using inertia to rebuild savings rather than compulsion, rebuilding the tattered occupational pension system. Most experts will probably broadly agree. Mr Brown was bound to disagree. Targeting tax resources on those most in need is the underlying principle of his tax credit policy.

Lord Turner's solution may also be uncomfortably close to Tory pension policy at the May 5 election, rubbished by Labour as too costly.

This week he rang a chum in distress to complain about being roughed up by the politicians. He has learned the hard way that intellect is not enough.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** CLERGY & RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS (74%); BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (70%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (69%)

**Company:** RENAULT SA  (57%); RENAULT SA  (57%);    CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY   (91%);  CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY  (91%)

**Organization:** CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY   (91%);  CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY  (91%); CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY   (91%);  CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY  (91%)

**Ticker:** RNO (PAR)  (57%); RNO (PAR)  (57%)

**Industry:** COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (69%); CONSULTING SERVICES (68%)

**Person:** GORDON BROWN (76%); TONY BLAIR (56%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); EUROPE (75%)

**Load-Date:** November 25, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Guide: exhibitions: The Ice Garden OXFORD***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HTT-CDH0-TX37-G3DT-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 17, 2005 Saturday

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**Section:** THE GUIDE; Pg. 37

**Length:** 119 words

**Byline:** Jessica Lack

**Body**

This weekend, the Clarendon Quad becomes a frozen wilderness of glacial towers. It's a project organised by the environmental charity Cape Farewell, which funds expeditions by artists and scientists to the Arctic in order to open up debate about dramatic ***climate change***. Rachel Whiteread's Tate Modern installation of white plastic boxes is inspired by her trip earlier this year. For The Ice Garden, Heather Ackroyd & Dan Harvey, Kathy Barber, David Buckland, Peter Clegg, Max Eastley and Ian McEwan have devised a number of installations that offer a chilling call to action. Ten two-metre-high icicles represent the volume of carbon dioxide generated by each person in the UK each year.

Bodleian Library, to Sun 18

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (90%); GLACIERS & ICEBERGS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (88%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (88%)

**Industry:** ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (88%)

**Geographic:** OXFORD, ENGLAND (68%); LONDON, ENGLAND (56%); ARCTIC (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (53%)

**Load-Date:** December 17, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Guide: PREVIEW music: Moby ON TOUR***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G5G-G130-00VR-R41V-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 14, 2005

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**Section:** The Guide, Pg. 23

**Length:** 142 words

**Byline:** john robinson

**Body**

Funny as it was when Eminem decided to pick on Moby three years ago, time has revealed the pair to have more in common than one might have thought. Both have huge records sales, are not quite as ubiquitous as they once were and, perhaps most startling to the rapper, Moby has come to be as much a lifestyle brand as he himself: the herbal tea-infusing, concerned-about-***climate-change*** crew are still down with the techno man.

The root of all this, of course, is his music: Moby's Play album helped create a market for credible easy-listening music that even acts like Coldplay have benefitted from. His new Hotel remakes the wheel, certainly, but live there's a great deal more variety afoot.

Carling Academy Glasgow, Mon 16; Carling Apollo, Manchester, Tue 17; Carling Academy, Birmingham, Wed 18; Carling Academy Brixton, SW9, Thu 19

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** HIP HOP CULTURE (78%); RAP MUSIC (78%); MUSIC (75%); MUSIC GENRES (70%)

**Industry:** HOTELS & MOTELS (54%)

**Person:** EMINEM (79%)

**Geographic:** BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND (53%)

**Load-Date:** May 14, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Guide: Radio: 13 February: Sound bites***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FG3-H110-00VR-R3KJ-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

February 12, 2005

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**Section:** The Guide, Pg. 67

**Length:** 105 words

**Byline:** Will Hodgkinson

**Body**

Christopher Eccleston's Sacred Nation ( 8pm, R2 ), a history of religious belief in the British Isles, reveals that Britain has been pluralistic since the pre-Christian era.

In this first episode he looks at how faith was shaped by the elements: the prehistorical Britons worshipped their ancestors, performing rituals to encourage them to provide a good harvest. Then, around 3,000BC the ***climate changed*** radically, the ancestor cult came to an end and nature itself was venerated. Eccleston looks at other ways in which religion has been shaped by earthly forces, and how British faith has always been various. WH

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** RELIGION (90%); CULTS & SECTS (88%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (88%)

**Load-Date:** February 12, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Guide: Stuff the box: We have Doctor Who and Little Britain to entertain us, but what are the holiday highlights for viewers around the world? Grace Dent tunes in***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HYT-M5G0-TX37-G27N-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 24, 2005 Sunday

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**Section:** THE GUIDE; Pg. 4

**Length:** 1553 words

**Byline:** Grace Dent

**Body**

While we like to portray a traditional British Christmas as one non-stop hoopla of carol singing, bracing Boxing Day hikes and playing Scrabble in askew paper hats, the reality is rather more sloth-like. Because what we Brits really do is simply watch the telly. Loads of telly. And almost the same telly every year. A word from the Queen at 3pm? The Two Ronnies doing their "four candles" sketch? Double EastEnders (featuring at least one death), Del and Rodney, rounded off with a comforting slice of Morecambe And Wise? These are our real Christmas traditions. But as a nation of festive couch potatoes, we're not the only culprits. In fact, here's what viewers all over the world will be goggling at this holiday season. . .

FRANCE

Since 1982, black-comedy Le Pere Noel Est Une Ordure (which translates along the lines of Father Christmas Is A Scumbag) has risen from obscure box-office failure to France's ninth most popular movie. Set on Christmas Eve in a social service helpline call centre, three workers try with varying degrees of failure to spread festive cheer among the depressed, suicidal homeless, heartbroken and bereaved who turn up looking for salvation. Utterly bleak, totally farcical, and very very funny. (NB: don't mention to your French chums Steve Martin and Juliette Lewis's excruciating 1994 American "mad-cap" remake, Mixed Nuts. Well unless you want to be on the wrong end of a Gallic sneer, and a stiff pelting with rotting onions).

GERMANY

No Christmas is complete without three films: Little Lord Fauntleroy (small child in daft velour trouser-suit inherits castle. The end); Das Fliegende Klassenzimmer (The Flying Classroom); and classic chick-flick Sissi, a cheery bio-pic about the Empress of Austria's anorexia, marital abuse and assassination. However, topping New Year's Eve ratings every year since 1973 is a black and white, 11-minute cult British comedy sketch called Dinner For One. The sketch centres around a randy, tipsy 90-year-old aristocrat, Miss Sophie, and her long-suffering, equally sozzled butler, James. "Same procedure as last year?" slurs James, chivvying Miss Sophie upstairs for her annual festive seeing-to. "Same procedure as every year!" hiccups Miss Sophie, as millions of viewers all over Germany yell along with the catchphrases in glee. Filmed in 1963, Dinner For One is a holiday hit all over Europe, including Estonia, Switzerland and Latvia. Everywhere, in fact, except for its place of creation, Britain, where we spotted, 42 years ago, that it was really, really bloody unfunny.

Also look out on German Christmas TV for Roger Whittaker, who's sold 10m albums in Germany over the last decade, with titles such as Christmas Songs, Happy Holidays, The Holly And The Ivy, and The Roger Whittaker Christmas Album! (Note: Roger Whittaker really loves Christmas.)

BRAZIL

Mr Christmas himself is king of pop Roberto Carlos. Forty-two years in the music business and 100m albums later, Carlos's annual Christmas Globo TV extravaganza is without fail Brazil's highest-rated show. Despite being 62 and looking a lot like a freeze-dried Chris De Burgh with a soft-rock mullet, Roberto Carlos is a massive heartthrob among Brazilian women. Abandon all knickers, all ye who hear this man's mid- tempo romantic Christmas crooning. Brazilians are also partial to a bit of Garfield and The Simpsons at Christmas, as well as the holiday classic Esqueceram De Mim? (Home Alone, dubbed into Portuguese.) Always guaranteed to transform Brazilian kids into hyperactive balls of excitement is the Xuxa Christmas Special. Blonde, elfin Playboy model turned multimillionaire kid's entertainer Xuxa is worshiped by tiny tots all over Brazil. And just when they've calmed down after Christmas, the Xuxa New Year's Special will rev them back into a frenzy again.

SWEDEN

The annual Christmas TV advent calendar show (Julkalendar) begins on December 1. With bizarre characters, scary wigs and a surreal night-by-night plot, the Julkalender, running now for over 35 years, is reported to be for children, but has adults tuning in out of unadulterated nostalgia. Then, later in the month, and bigger than God himself in Sweden, is TV star Kalle Anke, who appears every 3pm on Christmas Eve (the day the Swedes celebrate Christmas) for Kalle Anke's Julafton! With over 90% of all Swedish homes watching his show, Kalle Anke's Julafton is a TV tradition of over 30 years, so expect to find most Swedish Christmas dinners and family visits planned around his antics. But who is Kalle Anke? Don't get too excited. Brits in Sweden often talk of their bitter disappointment, after months of Yuletide hype, to tune in on Julafton and find it's Donald bloody Duck.

ROMANIA

It's only 16 years since Romanians were set free from communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his lovely wife Elena and permitted to celebrate Christmas again. Post-revolution, the Ceausescus were dragged outside on Christmas Day 1989 and executed by firing squad over the small matter of genocide, moving a billion dollars of Romanian money into off-shore accounts and ruining the country's heritage. Footage of the couple dying in a blaze of bullets then lying in a crumpled heap were shown on Romanian TV two days later. And then again every Christmas for the last 16 years since, just to reassure everyone they're really, really gone.

PHILIPPINES Christmas Day involves a lot of praying, beginning at 5am, then again at lunch, with no Christmas dinner till midnight. But then they've got a lot to be thankful for, like the annual Sabay Tayo, Kapamilya! Christmas Special on ABS-CBN, the legendary pre-Christmas telethon (like Children In Need) where anyone even remotely famous is wheeled out to dance, sing and tapdance. Last year's extravaganza was a major coup with appearances by megastars Diether Ocampo and, erm, Kristine Hermosa. No, us neither. Kym Marsh, get your agent on the phone. Even you and Jack could get booked here.

RUSSIA

Eldar Ryanazov's comedy The Irony Of Fate has been an intrinsic part of the Russian New Year's Eve ritual since 1975. Soviet television runs this three-hour-long comedy of errors, the tale of a man who gets hammered, goes home to the wrong flat and falls in love with the woman he meets there, several times a day every December 31. Russian bloggers talk passionately of watching the film for the umpteenth time in the morning while peeling, chopping and straining the ingredients of their new year's Olivier salad. Then watching it again while styling their hair and ironing their party outfit. Then as the first guests arrive, them turning their chairs towards the television and being transfixed yet again. You don't hear that said about the Vicar of Dibley, do you?

AMERICA

If you know any homesick Americans stranded in the UK over Christmas try not to mention Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer or Frosty The Snowman. Well, unless you like sobbing. Since the early 1960s, these animated Rankin/Bass Holiday Specials have played every year without fail, bedding themselves deep in the national psyche. Christmas just isn't Christmas, it seems, without watching Frosty (a jolly, happy soul with a corncob pipe, a button nose and two eyes made of coal) in his annual battle against ***climate change***, or sad Rudolph being cold-shouldered for "reindeer games". Another holiday requisite is A Charlie Brown Christmas, celebrating its 40th year on primetime Christmas TV. (It's the one where Charlie directs the school Christmas pageant, with frustrating results.) Also popular, especially with misers, since Christmas Day 1966 is The Yule Log, which is looped footage of a log blazing in a fireplace, accompanied by an up-tempo carols backing track. Turn off the heating, fiddle with the brightness button on your remote control, draw the family closer to the screen. Hey! It's just like a real log fire. Sort of.

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

In Australia, over two million people tune in for the legendary carol sing-song, Carols In The Domain. This year's exciting extravaganza stars Tina "I'm In Chains" Arena, Leo "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing" Sayer and Hugh "Gonna fire his agent after Christmas" Jackman, all singing and dancing to Aussie carols such as Six White Boomers and Santa Never Made It To Darwin. Elsewhere, Aussie Christmas movies include A Miracle Down Under (1987) and the equestrian romp A Bush Christmas, starring 17-year-old Nicole Kidman as a determined farmer's daughter searching for her stolen pony. The long, hot Boxing Day in Oz is typically frittered away watching coverage of the start of the Sydney Hobart yacht race or the test cricket from Melbourne. Meanwhile over in New Zealand, viewers can usually see all the traditional Brit Christmas fodder such as Only Fools And Horses and Morecambe And Wise, or if they're lucky re-runs of classic New Zealand movies like Goodbye Pork Pie or Smash Palace.

KENYA

If you've got access to a TV here over the Christmas holidays, it's not worth getting excited about, unless of course you really really love Jesus and can't flipping get enough of hearing about his good works. Look out for gripping documentaries such as A Search For Truth, Joshua And The Promised Land and Let Us Pray And Lift Jesus Higher! (So high, hopefully, that he can get up on the roof, fiddle with the satellite dish and pick up some Wallace And Gromit.) \*

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** CHRISTMAS (92%); BOXING DAY (90%); HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES (90%); FILM (72%); TICKET SALES (67%)

**Industry:** MOVIE FILMING (89%); TELEVISION COMEDIES (77%); MOVIE INDUSTRY (72%); TICKET SALES (67%)

**Geographic:** FRANCE (90%); GERMANY (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); EUROPE (56%); AUSTRIA (53%); ESTONIA (51%); LATVIA (51%)

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2006

**End of Document**

[***The Guide: Thursday December 8th: Television: Watch this***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HPS-V400-00VR-R4G8-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

December 3, 2005

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**Section:** The Guide, Pg. 87

**Length:** 290 words

**Byline:** Jonathan Wright and John Robinson

**Body**

Walking With Monsters

8.30pm, BBC1

Even before tyrannosaurus rex and company walked the Earth, our planet was home to some vicious beasties, the distant, distant ancestors of today's myriad species. The same team that produced Walking With Dinosaurs recreates this first complex life in CGI form, life that began to develop after another planet collided with the

young Earth some 4.4 billion years ago.

Despite some strange excursions into Finding Nemo-style anthropomorphism this is a show that's as impressive as its predecessors. JW

Russian Godfathers

9pm, BBC2

"They never forget me," says Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky of the Putin government. Wanted in his homeland on fraud charges, Berezovsky lives in a "gilded cage" in the home counties. However, the multi-millionaire businessman refuses to go into quiet exile. Then the Russian government imprisons another oligarch, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, leading to disquiet in the west. Is the political ***climate changing*** in Berezovsky's favour? JW

I Killed John Lennon

10pm, C4

Most of the anniversary programmes this week celebrate John Lennon's life -this deals with the person who ended it. Based on taped interviews, this reconstructs the life and motives of Mark Chapman: security guard, born-again Christian, and, ultimately, Lennon assassin. A narcissist, disappointed by his succession of dead-end jobs, this suggests Chapman fixated on Lennon and hoped to round out his personality by killing him. This we hear him talk about in such a way as to suggest the plan failed. All vaguely macabre. JR

FILM CHOICE

\* Small Time Crooks 12.05am, C4

\* Invincible 1.50am, C4 The week's best films, page 53

(R) Repeat (S) Stereo (T) Teletext

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** PREHISTORIC LIFE (90%); INTERVIEWS (71%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (71%); ANNIVERSARIES (67%); MOVIE REVIEWS (65%)

**Industry:** MOVIE REVIEWS (65%)

**Person:** BORIS BEREZOVSKY (74%)

**Geographic:** EARTH (90%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (90%)

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The lunchification of Charles***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HG6-NWT0-TX0B-N3CV-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

November 2, 2005

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**Length:** 780 words

**Highlight:** Scenes from a marriage, or two - our reporter gains exclusive access to a certain drawing room on Pennsylvania Avenue.

**Body**

From yesterday's White House press briefing:

"Scott, some of our British friends take this very seriously. And Prince Charles has signaled that he wants to talk to the President, preferably tomorrow, about climate warm - ***climate change***, and about treatment toward moderate Muslims? Does President Bush want to discuss these topics with Prince Charles?

Mr McCLELLAN: "The President is looking forward to the visit. He'll be glad to talk about whatever issues Prince Charles may want to bring up. This is a social visit. The President and Mrs Bush are looking forward to hosting their Royal Highnesses at a social lunch tomorrow."

And so it came to pass ...

CHARLES: Mr President, I don't think you've met my - my wife, Camilla.

BUSH: Laura and me were thankful to hear you'd celebrated your bond in the eyes of the Lord, Charles. There's nothing like it.

CHARLES: Er, quite.

BUSH: At this time of day, we generally take time for a short prayer in thanks for what God has supplied us. Would you join us?

CAMILLA: Darling, would you mind awfully if I nipped into the kitchen for a very quick cigarette?

LAURA: This is a non-smoking household, Princess. If you take Barney's leash he'll show you a spot out back where Jenna likes to take a rain-check.

CHARLES: Off you go, Duchess. (Pats her rump affectionately

CAMILLA: Ooh! I won't be a seccy, Charlie.

BUSH: How's that ranch of yours at Highgate, sir?

CHARLES: Wonderful. Absolutely thriving, as it happens. Quite extraordinary thing, you know, how much one can charge for a packet of biscuits, and it all gets ploughed back into the soil - in every sense, really. Quite amazing how the whole cycle renews itself - that is, if one helps nature take its course, in a holistic way, I mean to say.

BUSH: Nature's a holy thing. But cycling's off the table, if I can be straight with you. Laura won't let me back on the bike since I took a hit on the home run.

CHARLES: Hunting's the thing, Mr President. Nothing moves like Camilla on a horse.

BUSH: Yeah. We've got Ofelia on the ranch in Crawford.

CHARLES: Is she organic?

BUSH: Far as I know. Vitamin, vetaminarian, checked her last month. Nothing missing.

CHARLES: (removing a small pot from his coat pocket) Understand you're rather land-locked in Texas - thought some fish pate might go down rather well - sustainable, of course.

BUSH: Kipper and lemon! Laura, Barney is going to love this flavour. Real great of you to think of him.

LAURA: Isn't that the kindest thing.

CHARLES: The disturbances, you know, the winds, the floods, in the South. Camilla and I were deeply troubled by what - by what was going on, and the dreadful effects one sees from the ravages. One reaps, you know, what one sows.

BUSH: Yeah. But, you know, what I did was, I flew over the state that was afflicted, the whole area. And then I came back the next day. And I think I got a pretty good idea of what was going on down there. And I think I can say, and your president Tony Blair got this right, that what you saw on the BBC did not give an impression that was truthful, that was accurate, about what was going on, on the ground, in the water.

CHARLES: Photographers. Bloody people.

BUSH: You said it.

CHARLES: They'll appreciate us when we've gone, you know. What we did. But as hard as one tries, all one gets is criticism.

BUSH: Couldn't agree more.

CHARLES: I've been trying, you know, to convince Tony that when I, when my mother, when it's my turn, we should do something really quite radical, and show those wretched Anglican bishops who's in charge. What I've been proposing is that we, I, should be Defender of the Faiths, not just the Faith. Because there are so very many diverse ways of believing, you know, of celebrating one's faith in a deity - or perhaps, as some would have it, in several deities, possibly even a large number - and one doesn't wish to exclude. I had such a fruitful, encouraging discussion, you know, with an imam who helped me come up with the design for my Islamic tiles at Highgrove. It makes one realise that they don't all, you know, want to blow themselves up.

BUSH: Yeah. Tony's having a bad day, Scott was telling me. I told him he can come over any time. I like the sound of this Defender of the Faith, Charles. I like the sound of it. In many ways, God tells me He'd like me to do something like that over here.

CHARLES: Difficult, of course, damn difficult to change things back to the way they were, really since the Boston Tea Party, if one thinks about it.

BUSH: Yeah. Yale's in Connecticut, though. But I'll look into it, I'll have a word, a word with Dick. If we can't do it here, there's a lot of jobs going in Iraq.

CHARLES: One doesn't want to impose, of course.

BUSH: Tell me about it.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** BRITISH ROYALTY (90%); CHRISTIANS & CHRISTIANITY (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (77%); RELIGION (77%); MUSLIMS & ISLAM (72%); SMOKING (66%); CYCLING (60%)

**Person:** PRINCE CHARLES (91%); GEORGE W BUSH (79%)

**Geographic:** TEXAS, USA (79%)

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The Palm House effect***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HDP-R140-TX0B-N2RR-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

October 26, 2005

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**Length:** 1024 words

**Highlight:** A dance company has created a weather system in a restored former municipal greenhouse just outside Brighton. Susan Smillie finds out why.

**Body**

I'm standing outside a disused 1950s tropical greenhouse in Stanmer Park, a spacious country estate in the South Downs. I'm here to find out why Small Wonder, Brighton-based choreographer Charlie Morrissey's company, is producing a dance piece in such an unlikely environment.

A rich, earthy smell hits us as we enter. A curtain of rain appears just in front of me, the noise reverberating off the glass walls. Then it changes: there's a soft, misty rain up the other end. It looks and sounds stunning, although, as someone points out, the best viewing is hardly to be had on a grey afternoon with no darkness outside or lighting within. And I haven't even seen the wind effects, the fire, mist, or the fog. This is Palm House, Small Wonder's first major performance piece.

Though Small Wonder is a new company, Morrissey, and Paul Harrington, his co-director, have a partnership spanning 15 years, racking up a wealth of site-specific work along the way. Morrissey certainly seems to thrive in unusual spaces - he's off around his Palm House at breakneck speed, twiddling knobs, calling warnings to the technical crew, who are well used to sheltering their gear from the onslaught of wind and water.

He points towards paths the audience will take and it strikes me there's no dance floor in sight: the centre is laid with bark. It's not actually a dance piece, Morrissey says. It has dancers in it, but each part of this multisensory performance is equal in importance: physical movement, still images, sound, lighting - and significantly, the space itself - come together as something to be experienced more than watched as the audience is quite literally surrounded by the elements.

And the space is nothing if not atmospheric, from the tiered barrel vault of the roof, to the smell of the wet bark and the misty, tropical feel. Has it taken over, I wonder. "It's been completely about the space," confirms Morrissey. "We were looking for somewhere to work, Paul stumbled across this, and it was instantaneous - we loved it."

Although there are strong themes throughout the piece - of life's passage, birth, death, innocence lost, seasons changing - there is no narrative thread, because the company is not interested in dictating to its viewers. "I go to see something and read what it's about beforehand," Morrissey says, "And come out thinking: 'No it wasn't, it was about this or that.'"

In nature, simple things are often the most affecting, and Morrissey says he has tried to resist the temptation to overload the audience, allowing people the time to stand back, observe and experience the Palm House. Greenhouses represent the gardener's attempts to control the environment, but the soil and air teem with a life of their own, the show blurb says. Morrissey sees the greenhouse as a fitting metaphor for the human state: just as we struggle to tame our surroundings and attempt to contain and control ourselves, the darker, more turbulent side - our bugs and storms - lurk just beneath.

Palm House explores the relationship between humans and the natural world through a series of movements, sounds and images: women pick their way through rough terrain in high heels, dancers are caught in the rain, the glass walls are engulfed in flames.

The performance emerged organically with the building at the centre, as is often the case with site-specific work, giving birth to the idea of exploring man's relationship with nature. It's a timely subject, I suggest: as the world staggers through tsunami, hurricanes, and earthquakes, it's hard to ignore the possibility that humankind is reaping what we have sowed. "When you look at the things we do to ourselves, how we fuck our lives up sometimes just trying to be the kind of person we want to be, it's not surprising we treat nature in the same 'take now, pay later' way," agrees Morrissey. "But we didn't set out to make a statement about ***climate change***. This is more about looking at ourselves."

What the setting has brought to the performance is clear, but the glasshouse has presented difficulties too. Technical problems abound in a found space. Unlike the safe and neutral confines of theatre where everything is set up, a "normal" building's limitations and surroundings have to be considered. Inevitably, too, there are more health and safety issues to solve in a promenade piece where audience members wander at will. The Palm House had formerly been used as a municipal nursery and was a popular attraction, but had for many years lain derelict. The company had to completely refurbish the disused greenhouse, replacing glass and fixing surrounds.

But you get the sense the glasshouse has become more than just a performance space to Morrissey: he's excited about investing in it, bringing audiences up to explore the adjoining plant nurseries (the box office is housed in one) and the environmental project just up the road. And the challenge of transforming a neutral building clearly appeals to him: "There's something very special about using for art places people walk past everyday," Morrissey says. "It brings something different."

Palm House is the kind of project into which everyone involved throws themselves, from the technical crew working amid the on-again, off-again pouring rain, to the dancers getting their hands dirty filling the space with bark - quite a different gig, one imagines, for Jenny Tattersall, formerly of the Royal Ballet, or Graeme Gilmour, co-designer of the West End show Shockheaded Peter, who, as well as co-designing Palm House, plays the gardener. Morrissey is making an appearance in the show too, although he'd rather not be, since pulling the whole thing together has been so all-consuming.

They're an eclectic bunch, this Small Wonder crew - designers; pyrotechnicians, classical ballet and contemporary dancers; physical theatre and aerial practitioners - but the work has been very equalising, and according to Morrissey, the dancers have wholeheartedly embraced different body approaches. As he says: "You can't do ballet scrabbling around in bark chippings on the floor."

The Palm House, Stanmer Park, Oct 24 - 29; 8pm. Box office: 01273 685861

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** CHOREOGRAPHY (90%); DANCERS (77%); DANCE (77%)

**Industry:** ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (90%); DANCERS (77%)

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The rifts that remain***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G94-F970-TX0B-N33D-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

February 2, 2005

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**Length:** 1156 words

**Highlight:** Cautious EU optimism over the Iraqi elections cannot hide deep-seated differences with the US, says Ian Black.

**Body**

It wasn't exactly a ringing endorsement, but Europe did give a half-hearted cheer for the Iraqi elections, hailing them as the start of a process that might - just - start to lead the way out of a crisis that has overshadowed the global agenda for the last two years.

France and Germany, the leaders of the EU's antiwar camp, teamed up with Russia (the so-called "non-nein-nyet axis") to welcome the high turnout for the January 30 poll. The countries expressed the hope that the ensuing political process would be inclusive enough to build a new Iraq from the wreckage of dictatorship, war and occupation.

Formal language concealed a cautious sigh of relief at some rare good news from Baghdad. "We are united in our message - that this needs to be recognised as a courageous act for democracy," the German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, gushed.

George Bush even phoned Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schröder - unthinkable just a few weeks ago - to talk them through the elections. The fact that the US president had even bothered to place the calls made headlines in Paris and Berlin.

Nevertheless, the disagreements that preceded the war remained close to the surface, and there was not even a hint of a suggestion that Washington - and London - had been vindicated. "We regret nothing," the French foreign minister, Michel Barnier, insisted defiantly, "but we are looking ahead."

The tone is changing - looking ahead is the name of the transatlantic game right now.

This week, the new US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, begins a European tour in Paris, no longer the capital of the "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" of those bilious pre-war days, but that of a country - as Washington spokespeople are now saying, delicately - that has put itself "at the centre of the debate" about how Europe and the US should relate to each other.

Ms Rice will presumably not be repeating her famous quip that the US would punish France, ignore Germany and forgive Russia. In any event, her stay in Paris is intended to make up for the fact that her boss will be giving it a wide berth when he travels to Europe on February 22. Mr Bush will be meeting Jacques Chirac, but only over dinner in Brussels.

The US president has been to the Belgian capital before - although only to Nato, the embodiment of Atlantic solidarity - and his call on Jos. Manuel Barroso, the former Portuguese prime minister and now the president of the European commission, is his first-ever visit to EU headquarters.

This is an important symbolic gesture: no one has forgotten that, in the heat of the Iraq crisis, the US defence secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, divided Europe into "old" countries unwilling to sign up for the war and loyal "new" ones, such as Poland and Spain, which were.

Now though, as Ms Rice promised in her senate confirmation hearing, the Bush administration is holding a conversation, not a monologue. So the rest of Mr Bush's visit - to see Mr Schröder in the German city of Mainz (avoiding demonstrations in Berlin) and to the Slovak capital, Bratislava - is intended to prove that he is taking Europe as a whole seriously. The message is that the days of cherrypicking "willing allies" are over.

Yet for all the talk of a more consensual second term president - spin that has been actively encouraged by Tony Blair in his traditional Atlantic-bridging mode - there is still plenty for Europeans and Americans to carry on disagreeing about.

Iran's nuclear ambitions remain a source of enormous difficulty, with the EU convinced that its policy of using carrots rather than sticks is far superior to US and Israeli threats of military action.

No-one really believes, however, that another bout of regime change is looming, and there have been soothing noises from Washington since the inauguration. But the danger is that the Tehran regime will manage to drive a wedge between Europe and the US, and still end up acquiring its weapons anyway. The crucial difference this time is that Britain, working closely with France and Germany, is on the European side of the argument.

Europeans will be watching anxiously too to see whether Mr Bush will make good his pledge to "spend political capital" on helping to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute amid cautious hope that Yasser Arafat's successor, the newly-elected Mahmoud Abbas, could do a deal with Ariel Sharon. Few, however, are persuaded that he is really ready to tackle the Likud leader's determination to hold on to West Bank settlements once he has withdrawn from the Gaza Strip.

No one on the old continent ever believed, as did the US neocons, that the road to Jerusalem somehow went through Baghdad. So the Europeans will take some convincing that Washington is now serious about pushing hard for a settlement of this core Middle Eastern issue.

And there are other fundamental disagreements, over ***climate change*** and EU plans to lift its arms embargo on China. Another row may be looming over attitudes to the international criminal court, which Europeans want to deal with war crimes committed in Darfur, but which the US dislikes because it does not want its personnel subject to international justice.

Not surprisingly, Europeans remember the abuses of Abu Ghraib and Guant.namo Bay, and wonder whether the rhetoric about shared values means anything at all. And on Iraq - still mired in crisis despite the way in which the elections went - there is no sign of European readiness to put "boots on the ground" to relieve the overburdened US army.

Nato members are likely to agree to expand an existing mission to train Iraqi police and troops, but neither the French nor Germans will set foot on Iraqi soil. Indeed, apart from the British, the other European troops are on their way out. The Spanish have already left, and will be followed in the coming months by Polish, Dutch, Ukrainian and other contingents. In Denmark, a poll this week showed declining support for the 550 troops serving under British command in the Basra area.

Europeans are ready to help, as ever, with cash for reconstruction and institution-building, and especially to improve battered education and health services, adding to the euro2bn (£1.38bn) pledged to Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

This is an illustration, yet again, of the old saying about the US making the mess and the Europeans doing the dishes.

Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, went to the limits of Europe's "soft power", competing with Nato to offer European help to the Iraqi security forces.

He suggested, too, that EU experts could advise on drafting the constitution vital to building a democratic Iraq in which the Sunni Muslims - who lost most with the demise of the Ba'athist regime - do not feel excluded by the Shia and the Kurds.

Friends of Iraq can only smile wryly and hope that might be easier to understand than the new EU constitution, which few people in the union's 25 member states have ever heard of, let alone comprehend.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** ELECTIONS (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (90%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (89%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); POLITICS (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (76%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (73%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (72%); DICTATORSHIPS (69%)

**Person:** CONDOLEEZZA RICE (78%); GEORGE W BUSH (58%); JACQUES CHIRAC (56%); GERHARD SCHRODER (56%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (93%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (79%); BAGHDAD, IRAQ (58%); FRANCE (95%); EUROPE (95%); UNITED STATES (94%); IRAQ (93%); GERMANY (93%); BELGIUM (92%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (92%); PORTUGAL (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2005

**End of Document**

[***The rifts that remain***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G94-F9C0-TX0B-N2TV-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

February 2, 2005

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**Length:** 1175 words

**Highlight:** Cautious EU optimism over the Iraqi elections cannot hide deep-seated differences with the US, says Ian Black

**Body**

It wasn't exactly a ringing endorsement, but Europe did give a half-hearted cheer for the Iraqi elections, hailing them as the start of a process that might - just - start to lead the way out of a crisis that has overshadowed the global agenda for the last two years.

France and Germany, the leaders of the EU's antiwar camp, teamed up with Russia (the so-called "non-nein-nyet axis") to welcome the high turnout for the January 30 poll. The countries expressed the hope that the ensuing political process would be inclusive enough to build a new Iraq from the wreckage of dictatorship, war and occupation.

Formal language concealed a cautious sigh of relief at some rare good news from Baghdad. "We are united in our message - that this needs to be recognised as a courageous act for democracy," the German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, gushed.

George Bush even phoned Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schr - unthinkable just a few weeks ago - to talk them through the elections. The fact that the US president had even bothered to place the calls made headlines in Paris and Berlin.

Nevertheless, the disagreements that preceded the war remained close to the surface, and there was not even a hint of a suggestion that Washington - and London - had been vindicated. "We regret nothing," the French foreign minister, Michel Barnier, insisted defiantly, "but we are looking ahead."

The tone is changing - looking ahead is the name of the transatlantic game right now.

This week, the new US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, begins a European tour in Paris, no longer the capital of the "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" of those bilious pre-war days, but that of a country - as Washington spokespeople are now saying, delicately - that has put itself "at the centre of the debate" about how Europe and the US should relate to each other.

Ms Rice will presumably not be repeating her famous quip that the US would punish France, ignore Germany and forgive Russia. In any event, her stay in Paris is intended to make up for the fact that her boss will be giving it a wide berth when he travels to Europe on February 22. Mr Bush will be meeting Jacques Chirac, but only over dinner in Brussels.

The US president has been to the Belgian capital before - although only to Nato, the embodiment of Atlantic solidarity - and his call on Jos瞠Manuel Barroso, the former Portuguese prime minister and now the president of the European commission, is his first-ever visit to EU headquarters.

This is an important symbolic gesture: no one has forgotten that, in the heat of the Iraq crisis, the US defence secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, divided Europe into "old" countries unwilling to sign up for the war and loyal "new" ones, such as Poland and Spain, which were.

Now though, as Ms Rice promised in her senate confirmation hearing, the Bush administration is holding a conversation, not a monologue. So the rest of Mr Bush's visit - to see Mr Schr in the German city of Mainz (avoiding demonstrations in Berlin) and to the Slovak capital, Bratislava - is intended to prove that he is taking Europe as a whole seriously. The message is that the days of cherrypicking "willing allies" are over.

Yet for all the talk of a more consensual second term president - spin that has been actively encouraged by Tony Blair in his traditional Atlantic-bridging mode - there is still plenty for Europeans and Americans to carry on disagreeing about.

Iran's nuclear ambitions remain a source of enormous difficulty, with the EU convinced that its policy of using carrots rather than sticks is far superior to US and Israeli threats of military action.

No one really believes, however, that another bout of regime change is looming, and there have been soothing noises from Washington since the inauguration. But the danger is that the Tehran regime will manage to drive a wedge between Europe and the US, and still end up acquiring its weapons anyway. The crucial difference this time is that Britain, working closely with France and Germany, is on the European side of the argument.

Europeans will be watching anxiously too to see whether Mr Bush will make good his pledge to "spend political capital" on helping to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute amid cautious hope that Yasser Arafat's successor, the newly-elected Mahmoud Abbas, could do a deal with Ariel Sharon. Few, however, are persuaded that he is really ready to tackle the Likud leader's determination to hold on to West Bank settlements once he has withdrawn from the Gaza Strip.

No one on the old continent ever believed, as did the US neocons, that the road to Jerusalem somehow went through Baghdad. So the Europeans will take some convincing that Washington is now serious about pushing hard for a settlement of this core Middle Eastern issue.

And there are other fundamental disagreements, over ***climate change*** and EU plans to lift its arms embargo on China. Another row may be looming over attitudes to the international criminal court, which Europeans want to deal with war crimes committed in Darfur, but which the US dislikes because it does not want its personnel subject to international justice.

Not surprisingly, Europeans remember the abuses of Abu Ghraib and Guantୡmo Bay, and wonder whether the rhetoric about shared values means anything at all. And on Iraq - still mired in crisis despite the way in which the elections went - there is no sign of European readiness to put "boots on the ground" to relieve the overburdened US army.

Nato members are likely to agree to expand an existing mission to train Iraqi police and troops, but neither the French nor Germans will set foot on Iraqi soil. Indeed, apart from the British, the other European troops are on their way out. The Spanish have already left, and will be followed in the coming months by Polish, Dutch, Ukrainian and other contingents. In Denmark, a poll this week showed declining support for the 550 troops serving under British command in the Basra area.

Europeans are ready to help, as ever, with cash for reconstruction and institution-building, and especially to improve battered education and health services, adding to the ?2bn (£1.38bn) pledged to Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

This is an illustration, yet again, of the old saying about the US making the dinner and the Europeans doing the dishes.

Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, went to the limits of Europe's "soft power", competing with Nato to offer European help to the Iraqi security forces.

He suggested, too, that EU experts could advise on drafting the constitution vital to building a democratic Iraq in which the Sunni Muslims - who lost most with the demise of the Ba'athist regime - do not feel excluded by the Shia and the Kurds.

Friends of Iraq can only smile wryly and hope that might be easier to understand than the new EU constitution, which few people in the union's 25 member states have ever heard of, let alone comprehend.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** ELECTIONS (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (90%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (89%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); POLITICS (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (73%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (72%); DICTATORSHIPS (69%)

**Person:** CONDOLEEZZA RICE (78%); GEORGE W BUSH (58%); JACQUES CHIRAC (56%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (93%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (79%); BAGHDAD, IRAQ (58%); FRANCE (95%); EUROPE (95%); UNITED STATES (94%); IRAQ (93%); GERMANY (93%); BELGIUM (92%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (92%); PORTUGAL (79%)

**Load-Date:** February 8, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Today at question time***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GDB-10R0-TX0B-N22W-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

June 15, 2005

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**Length:** 878 words

**Highlight:** Minute-by-minute coverage of today's PMQ's, dominated, as expected, by Europe.

**Body**

With Tony Blair having visited Moscow, Berlin, Luxembourg and Paris in the past 48 hours, and off to Brussels for a summit on the EU budget and constitution tomorrow, Europe will most definitely be centre stage at today's PMQs.

Mr Blair has staked discussion of the UK's controversial 3.2bn rebate against renegotiation of heavy EU subsidies for France's agricultural sector. The Tories have called for the rebate to be non-negotiable.

Other topics in the air may include today's strike ballot by parliament's cleaners, the future of city academies, and - last but not least - possibly the future of the Tory leadership contest, which appears to be getting more complicated by the minute.

Midday

As predicted, Mr Howard begins with Europe - will Mr Blair be urging EU leaders to declare the constitution "dead" or opt for longer consultation. "You're dead," heckles one Labour backbencher.

It's time for a "pause for reflection", the PM says, reiterating the formula he used yesterday in Paris. But he stresses he will lead a pro-EU government at the heart of Europe, as he takes over the EU presidency in July.

"I agree we should use this as a great opportunity to rethink the entire basis of the European Union - shouldn't it do less and do it better and return powers to the member states?" says the Tory leader.

I fear the Tories want to renegotiate our entire membership, leading to exit, hits back Mr Blair. He raises Labour morale by quoting Mrs Thatcher in 1981 back at Mr Howard. "She didn't want to leave the European Union and neither do I," answers the Tory leader.

12.05pm

But his position is to renegotiate our entire membership, says Mr Blair, before pointing to Sir Malcolm Rifkind, who allegedly once said the Tory position was tantamount to leaving Europe. On the frontbench next to Mr Blair, Gordon Brown points out that almost the entire Tory frontbench, along with Sir Malcolm, are potential Tory leadership candidates.

"He's wiggled on Europe like a worm on fishhook. Speak straight to the British people and give it straight to European leaders tomorrow," urges Mr Howard.

12.10pm

Charles Kennedy returns to Europe. He reminds everyone that Michael Howard endorsed the Maastricht treaty, before saying we should accept that the constitution "is no longer viable". So we need more than a pause for reflection, we need a "moratorium on significant treaty revisions" he says, giving the EU a chance to prove itself.

"The future of the constitution can only be decided by the council of ministers as a whole," scolds Mr Blair, saying it is not for the UK to declare the treaty dead. He says the debate on Europe should now move on to security and the economy. But the "current mechanisms are not sufficient" for good decision making, Mr Blair adds, as the 25 states will soon increase to 27.

Mr Kennedy wants greater transparency at meetings of the council of ministers. "It's obviously a great step forward but it's not going to answer the real question in Europe," says Mr Blair. The debate in Europe is about two things - first, the rise of globalisation and the rise of India and China, and second, the transatlantic alliance. Until those are settled people will find it difficult to vote on constitutional treaties, he concludes.

12.15pm

Iain Duncan Smith, back in the limelight, says Mr Blair has "taken more positions than the karma sutra" on the EU constitution, and now appears to be both for it and against it.

"What a superb question that was and I'm devastated by it," replies the PM sarcastically, before wishing Mr Duncan Smith well "in what position he finds acceptable".

12.20pm

Mr Blair agrees with Chris Bryant that some mentally ill people on incapacity benefit would be better off in work.

Tory Ann Winterton worries that an EU defence force is still in the pipeline, no matter the results of the constitution votes. Mr Blair says the Tories are using the situation to try their case for withdrawal from Europe. "We think it's sensible to have defence cooperation with other European nations," he says.

Labour MP Colin Burgon calls for a sensible debate on energy provision "not dominated by the nuclear lobby," and for nationalised coal mines. "I can't quite follow him down that path," smiles Mr Blair.

The SNP's Alex Salmond asks if it is true that 80p out of every pound donated to the Labour party has come from people ennobled by the party? I don't know the exact figures, says Mr Blair, but points out that it was Labour who brought in donation transparency.

12.25pm

Lib Dem John Hemming quotes a vicar in his constituency who has been telephoned by a mechanical calling machine. "I don't know what the answer is but I'll find out and get back to him."

"Bonjour!" begins EU-sceptic Labour MP Ian Davidson. Will he bring in a "minister of the month" award and give it to Europe minister Douglas Alexander, he goes on, who he says has achieved much in a short time, by renegotiating the common agricultural policy and picking a fight with France!

"Merci beacoup!" answers the PM, joining in the joke.

12.30pm

Labour's David Chaytor attacks president Bush for failing to act on ***climate change***, and contrasts him with California's governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Can he persuade Mr Bush that Mr Schwarzenegger is right? "I will do my best," answers the PM.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** EUROPEAN UNION (93%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (89%); EUROPEAN UNION LAW (78%); STRIKES (76%); PRIME MINISTERS (75%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (75%); MONETARY UNIONS (73%); EU PRESIDENCY (73%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (63%); GOVERNMENT GRANTS & SUBSIDIES (56%)

**Organization:**  EUROPEAN UNION (54%)

**Industry:** MONETARY UNIONS (73%); AGRICULTURE (56%)

**Person:** TONY BLAIR (79%); GORDON BROWN (58%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (92%); BERLIN, GERMANY (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (78%); EUROPE (96%); UNITED KINGDOM (95%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (94%); FRANCE (92%); NETHERLANDS (79%); BELGIUM (79%); LUXEMBOURG (78%)

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Today at the PM's press conference***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HHF-BJS0-TX0B-N2XF-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

November 7, 2005

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**Length:** 1710 words

**Highlight:** Tony Blair today fields questions after - if not one of the worst weeks of his premiership - certainly the worst week of his third term. First there was the loss of a trusted cabinet minister in charge of a highly contentious brief and then the prime minister was left battling imminent defeat, or at least humiliating compromise, over his flagship terrorism bill.

**Body**

Tony Blair today fields questions after - if not one of the worst weeks of his premiership - certainly the worst week of his third term. First there was the loss of a trusted cabinet minister in charge of a highly contentious brief and then the prime minister was left battling imminent defeat, or at least humiliating compromise, over his flagship terrorism bill.

Judging by his performance in the weekend's exclusive Guardian interview, Mr Blair's preferred method of defence will be attack. He is likely to be asking critics to show why they object to the police's call for 90 days' detention for terror suspects and will probably praise the new work and pensions' secretary, John Hutton, as he takes up his role tackling incapacity benefit and public pensions reforms.

Other topics may include EU reform - a summit starts today, and Mr Blair still has the EU's rotating presidency - and perhaps Sir Christopher Meyer's memoir of the build-up to the war in Iraq, published today by the Guardian.

Midday:

"No one can complain it's been a dull few weeks," jokes Mr Blair as he opens up the press conference, but he reminds us he was re-elected just six months ago on a radical Labour manifesto. He points specifically to the education bill and tomorrow's child care bill.

The PM also points to incapacity benefit, pensions and the energy review as upcoming challenges.

But, on today's terror bill, Mr Blair says: "This is not a plan dreamed up by me." He says it is what "the most senior police officers in the country" have asked him to do as part of the battle to "prevent further terrorist outrages". Copies of the police's opinion have been placed on every journalist's seat.

The main thrusts are the need to track technologies and prepare translations - to marshall evidence to use in interview, with potential attacks already thwarted.

"The challenge is not one that can be met by the policing methods of the 1990s," Mr Blair goes on.

"So I hope even now parliament will not force a compromise on us," he concludes, admitting that amendments to the bill will be tabled today, ahead of Wednesday's debate.

12.10:

Sky gets the first question, and asks for details of the two terrorist attacks Mr Blair said over the weekend the police had foiled since July 7. If this was the case, was it not proof the police have enough time as things stand?

Ask the police about that, says Mr Blair, adding that there are people in the country right now planning attacks. "Let me be clear: we do not want to compromise at all on 90 days. If we are forced to, it will be a compromise with this nation's security," the PM says, telling the media that some MPs will be walking through the no lobby thinking they know better than the security services.

Nick Robinson asks why Mr Blair does not simply cast it as a vote of no confidence in his leadership? "That would be the simple way," agrees Mr Blair, but says it would be a "distraction."

He goes on to ask why the two Tory would-be leaders are both against 90-day detention with judicial oversight every week.

"This isn't about my authority, it's about the country's security," responds Mr Blair, when the BBC man asks why he can't get a national security bill through the Commons despite having a healthy working majority.

The police's case is compelling, says Mr Blair, because in the past the police may have let a terror conspiracy continue whilst amassing evidence, but now the police "have to lift these people early" in case the planning is in a further stage than thought.

12.15:

ITN asks how long Mr Blair would want to go on, if he can't get such an important piece of legislation through.

"The public are beginning to 'get' the issue," insists Mr Blair. He says they will hold their MPs responsible if it does not get through.

"If we have to make a compromise, no one should be in any doubt that's not what I want."

We are prepared to look at things like sunset clauses, Mr Blair reveals - but tells reporters to wait and see what today's government amendment is on the exact period of detention.

Mr Blair tells BBC 24 that it is "ridiculous" to think hundreds or thousands of people will be detained, or that the proposal is some form of "internment". The numbers are very small, probably around 20, he says - and it would still be a system "less tough" than that of France or Spain.

12.20:

The first non-terror bill question: a foreign journalist asks about Iran. "Iran has got to face up to its responsibilities," says the PM. "Iran supports terrorism around the Middle East and it should stop it." That sort of terrorism prevents political progress being made, he says.

Channel 4 asks if the 90-day period will result in more miscarriages of justice, or if Mr Blair regrets preannouncing his retirement. Mr Blair thinks the opposite on the first, that giving police more time will reduce the such cases - but he promises more powers for antisocial behaviour fixed penalty notices, which also do not go through a judicial process.

"Where I stand in the Labour party has been under challenge since the day I became leader," he rebuffs the latter question. He draws a parellel with Mrs Thatcher's troubles in her third term, adding that she said she would go "on and on", and a "fat lot of good it did her".

12.15:

The Daily Telegraph asks why Mr Blair doesn't retable the same 90-day amendment and call a general election if it does not succeed. That would get the Tories and the Lib Dems off the hook and is not the answer - although it would give the journalists an interesting line, he admits.

12.30:

A Northern Ireland journalist asks about the attitude of the government to "on the run" terrorists in Ulster, compared with the measures being proposed in the current anti-terror bill.

The Scotsman asks if the security services are, in fact, backing 90 days. They are, says Mr Blair.

The Independent quotes Sir Christopher Meyer as saying there was a point Mr Blair could have stopped the war in Iraq - is that correct?

"I have nothing to say at all - beyond saying I'm not getting into book promotion," counters the PM.

On David Blunkett's resignation, Mr Blair says you can't "subcontract" a decision about who is in the cabinet from the PM.

The Guardian comes back in on Sir Christopher's question about delaying the war to allow the UN weapons inspectors more time. "I made the most strenuous attempts to get a second resolution - and we couldn't get one because the French made it clear they would veto it," says Mr Blair.

CNN's Robin Oakley asks if the PM would give the police anything they wanted: "180 days detention, the return of capital punishment, the stocks ... ?"

Of course I'm not in the position of giving the police everything they ask for, says Mr Blair, but this 90 days is subject to weekly judicial review.

"Most MPs agree to an extension of time - to 28 days - so why substitute their view .for that of the police.," Mr Blair says of backbench critics.

"It's not good enough, it's really not, it's not responsible," Mr Blair says of Tory criticisms that the police always ask for more than they can get, and contrasts it to what the press would have done to him as Labour leader in opposition if he had dismissed the views of the police.

12.40:

An Irish Times journalist asks if it's worth turning British civil liberties "on their head" for the sake of fewer than 20 suspects. "I'd turn it around and say that's why this is a targeted motion ... comparisons with internment are fatuous, frankly."

A Chinese journalist asks what Mr Blair will discuss with the Chinese president, who visits Britain tomorrow. ***Climate change***, the world security situation, economic and political development in China, says the PM.

12.45:

The Daily Mail's Quentin Letts asks if it's true that British foreign policy was "to get up the back passage of America". No, says Mr Blair.

The Sun asks sarcastically if the PM will look back "with pride" at the day he backed down to public sector unions, to allow public sector retirement at 60 when the private sector work until 70.

Israel Radio asks to examine Mr Blair's "thought processes" with regards to Iran, criticising the west for "pussyfooting around" the issue.

"The thing that would make Iran and Syria change the most is a stable and democratic Iraq," says Mr Blair - a strong, Muslim state with democratic government would get their people asking why we don't have one too, he suggests.

12.50:

The Evening Standard asks if people who wear Free Tibet T-shirts in the Mall this week will be hustled away by police. People are free to say whatever they want to say, insists Mr Blair, joking that it will be a "relief" to have people protesting at someone other than him.

The Standard also asks what lifting people for three months without charge will do for race relations in places like Bethnal Green.

The Asian communities hate terrorism and many of them are victims of it, says Mr Blair.

Newsnight's Michael Crick says a third of young people want Mr Blair to stay on as prime minister after the next election - so how about it?

Mr Blair allows an enormous pause ... before saying no.

The PM turns on the journalists to point out that two years ago people were saying foundation hospitals were "the end of the NHS", and today he was announcing a further extension of the policy without any questions or comments - that's tough decisions, he says.

An Italian reporter asks if the French riots could spread across Europis not a plan dreamed up by me." He says it is what "the most senior police officers in the country" have asked him to do as part of the battle to "prevent further terrorist outrages". Copies of the police's opinion have been placed on every journalist's seat.

The main thrusts are the need to track technologies and prepare translations - to marshall evidence to use in interview, with potential attacks already thwarted.

"The challenge is not one that can be met by the policing methods of the 1990s," Mr Blair goes on.

"So I hope even now parliament will not force a compromise on us," he concludebut it's better if we discuss it with other countries first, says the PM.

Agence France Press asks if appearing on a TV football talkshow "smacked of desperation" after his bad week. It was the highlight of the week, jokes Mr Blair.

And with that, this month's press conference is over.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (90%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (89%); INTERVIEWS (89%); TERRORISM (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); EUROPEAN UNION (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (77%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (75%); PENSION REFORM (74%); IRAQ WAR (71%); EU PRESIDENCY (68%); WRITERS (67%); PRESS CONFERENCES (66%)

**Industry:** PENSION REFORM (74%); WRITERS (67%)

**Person:** TONY BLAIR (79%); JOHN HUTTON (58%)

**Geographic:** IRAQ (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (56%)

**Load-Date:** November 7, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Tories crown Cameron their new leader***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HRF-NNW0-TX0B-N2DY-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

December 6, 2005

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**Length:** 824 words

**Highlight:** David Cameron has become the new Conservative party leader, beating his rival David Davis by a bigger than expected margin of more than two to one.

**Body**

David Cameron has become the new Conservative party leader, beating his rival David Davis by a bigger than expected margin of more than two to one.

When the result of the 198,844 votes cast was announced today at the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly, Mr Cameron received 134,446 votes to Mr Davis's 64,398.

Mr Cameron, accepting his new role, said he would offer "a more compassionate Conservatism right for our times and right for our country".

"We needed to change in order to win. Now that I have won, we will change" he added, pledging to undo the "scandalous" under-representation of women in the party.

"I love this country as it is, not as it was," Mr Cameron added, also promising to reject the "Punch and Judy" show aspects of Westminster politics, and to support Tony Blair's government when the Tories agreed with it.

Mr Cameron will nonetheless face a baptism of fire when, as leader of the opposition, he faces Tony Blair across the despatch box at prime minister's questions tomorrow lunchtime.

The 39-year old former TV executive, not even an MP five years ago, becomes the party's fifth leader in eight years, and will probably face Gordon Brown at the next general election, expected in 2009.

Mr Cameron's first job will be to appoint his own shadow cabinet, and whether to demote his defeated rival, David Davis, from the post of home secretary. A decision on that may now wait until tomorrow, with long-running speculation that William Hague will make a return to frontline politics and a job as foreign secretary.

Liam Fox, who was defeated in the second round ballot of MPs, after Ken Clarke went out in the first round, is expected to be offered Mr Davis' s current brief as shadow home secretary.

Mr Cameron merely told reporters to "wait and see" exactly who would be given which job.

While many modernisers have advised Mr Cameron to mimic Tony Blair and pick a row with his party to show it has modernised, the first controversial measure of his leadership is likely to be to be a decision to pull the Tories out of the Europhile European People's Party grouping in Brussels.

Turnout in today's postal ballot of all Conservative party members was 78%, marginally up on the 2001 contest - the only other grassroots vote - in which Iain Duncan Smith beat Ken Clarke.

In a break with precedent, the announcement of the count was made not at Tory campaign HQ in Westminster, but at the Royal Academy of Arts on Piccadilly.

Mr Cameron joked that by cycling to Westminster today he had helped fight ***climate change***, "until the BBC sent a helicopter following me".

"Everyone is invited to this modern, compassionate Conservative party," he concluded, to a standing ovation. He also purloined former rival Dr Liam Fox's phrase of mending "a broken society".

Turning to Mr Brown, his likely opponent, he warned that the chancellor would "not be able to escape his 12 year record" at the time of the next election. "On all the evidence I've seen, this man is the roadblock to reform."

David Davis, the defeated candidate, thanked his campaign team after the announcement, and called the contest "a preamble to us winning the next general election".

The outgoing party leader, Michael Howard, praised the "good humour and civility" of the contest, and said: "I hope and expect the new leader will have the same unstinting support I had."

Mr Cameron's ascent to the leadership has been meteoric. He became an MP only in 2001, and all through the summer was, at best, the dark horse in a leadership contest Mr Davis seemed certain to win.

However, he finally won the backing of more than 100 MPs and an impregnable lead in opinion polls of Tory party members, following a rapturously received speech at the party conference in Blackpool.

Nick Gibb MP, a Cameron supporter, told Guardian Unlimited: "This represents a real opportunity to set a new tone in British politics and resist the old habit of playing the Westminster game of 'yah-boo politics'.

I also think we'll now see a real focus on development of policies to sort out the relationship between the public services and the state: particularly in education and health."

The Tory leaders since Margaret Thatcher have been John Major (1990-97), William Hague (1997-2001), Iain Duncan Smith (2001-3) and Michael Howard (2003-5).

The Liberal Democrats were the first to welcome Mr Cameron into his new job, but party president Simon Hughes said: "The Conservatives' problem is not their salesman - it's their product.

"Mr Cameron has yet to set out many detailed policy initiatives but we do know he wrote the Conservative manifesto for the 2005 general election.

"We know he is a convinced anti-European, a keen supporter of tuition fees and is likely to back the government on nuclear power. If that is the definition of modern Conservatism, they will continue to struggle to emerge from the political wilderness."

There was no official reaction to the election from the Labour party this afternoon.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); VOTERS & VOTING (89%); ELECTIONS (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); CONSERVATISM (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); APPOINTMENTS (78%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (66%)

**Person:** DAVID CAMERON (79%); TONY BLAIR (72%); LIAM FOX (58%); GORDON BROWN (52%)

**Geographic:** WESTMINSTER, ENGLAND (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (51%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%)

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Tories crown Cameron their new leader***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HRM-GS40-TX0B-N34F-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

December 6, 2005

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"I love this country as it is, not as it was," Mr Cameron said, and promised to reject the "Punch and Judy" show aspects of Westminster politics, and to support Tony Blair's government when the Tories agreed with it.

Mr Cameron will nonetheless face a baptism of fire when, as leader of the opposition, he faces Tony Blair across the despatch box at prime minister's questions tomorrow lunchtime.

The 39-year old former TV executive, not even an MP five years ago, becomes the party's fifth leader in eight years, and will probably face Gordon Brown at the next general election, expected in 2009.

Mr Cameron's first job will be to appoint his own shadow cabinet, and decide whether to demote his defeated rival, David Davis, from the post of home secretary. A decision on that may now wait until tomorrow, with long-running speculation that William Hague will make a return to frontline politics and a job as foreign secretary.

Liam Fox, who was defeated in the second round ballot of MPs, after Ken Clarke went out in the first round, is expected to be offered Mr Davis's current brief as shadow home secretary.

Mr Cameron merely told reporters to "wait and see" exactly who would be given which job. He did announce one appointment - that of a new chief whip, Patrick McLoughlin, to replace David McLean, who volunteered to return to the backbenches.

While many modernisers have advised Mr Cameron to mimic Tony Blair and pick a row with his party to show it has modernised, the first controversial measure of his leadership is likely to be a decision to pull the Tories out of the Europhile European People's Party grouping in Brussels.

Turnout in today's postal ballot of all Conservative party members was 78%, marginally up on the 2001 contest - the only other grassroots vote - in which Iain Duncan Smith beat Ken Clarke.

In a break with precedent, the announcement of the count was made not at Tory campaign HQ in Westminster, but at the Royal Academy of Arts on Piccadilly.

Mr Cameron joked that by cycling to Westminster today he had helped fight ***climate change***, "until the BBC sent a helicopter following me".

"Everyone is invited to this modern, compassionate Conservative party," he concluded, to a standing ovation. He also purloined former rival Dr Liam Fox's phrase about mending "a broken society".

Turning to Mr Brown, his likely opponent at the time of the next election, he warned that the chancellor would "not be able to escape his 12-year record ..... On all the evidence I've seen, this man is the roadblock to reform."

David Davis, the defeated candidate, thanked his campaign team after the announcement, and called the contest "a preamble to us winning the next general election".

The outgoing party leader, Michael Howard, praised the "good humour and civility" of the contest, and said: "I hope and expect the new leader will have the same unstinting support I had."

Mr Cameron's ascent to the leadership has been meteoric. He became an MP only in 2001, and all through the summer was, at best, the dark horse in a leadership contest Mr Davis seemed certain to win.

However, he finally won the backing of more than 100 MPs and an impregnable lead in opinion polls of Tory party members, following a rapturously received speech at the party conference in Blackpool.

Nick Gibb MP, a Cameron supporter, told Guardian Unlimited: "This represents a real opportunity to set a new tone in British politics and resist the old habit of playing the Westminster game of 'yah-boo politics'.

I also think we'll now see a real focus on development of policies to sort out the relationship between the public services and the state: particularly in education and health."

The Tory leaders since Margaret Thatcher have been John Major (1990-97), William Hague (1997-2001), Iain Duncan Smith (2001-3) and Michael Howard (2003-5).

The Liberal Democrats were the first to welcome Mr Cameron into his new job, but party president Simon Hughes said: "The Conservatives' problem is not their salesman - it's their product.

"Mr Cameron has yet to set out many detailed policy initiatives but we do know he wrote the Conservative manifesto for the 2005 general election.

"We know he is a convinced anti-European, a keen supporter of tuition fees and is likely to back the government on nuclear power. If that is the definition of modern Conservatism, they will continue to struggle to emerge from the political wilderness."

There was no official reaction from the Labour party this afternoon, but Labour MP Fraser Kemp said: ".Mr Cameron.'s problem is he's a Tory. All we've seen from David Cameron is as the author of the election manifesto in May which lost them the election."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); VOTERS & VOTING (89%); ELECTIONS (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); CONSERVATISM (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); APPOINTMENTS (78%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (66%)

**Person:** DAVID CAMERON (79%); TONY BLAIR (72%); LIAM FOX (58%); GORDON BROWN (52%)

**Geographic:** WESTMINSTER, ENGLAND (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (51%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%)

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Train boost***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FXR-2TS0-00VR-R3CV-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

April 13, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 25

**Length:** 185 words

**Byline:** Richard Faulkner

**Body**

The rise in Eurostar passenger numbers (Mr Jetset campaign boosts Eurostar sales 10%", April 8) demonstrates a continuing and welcome shift away from planes to rail. These figures show that if high-quality, fast rail services are available, travellers will choose the train.

Across Europe, short-haul flights linking cities such as Madrid and Barcelona are coming under similar pressure as improved rail services offer an alternative to flying. The same will happen in the UK if we make a reality of the proposals to build a new high speed rail route between London and Scotland.

This will be good news for the environment because travelling by rail has half the overall environmental impact per trip compared with flying. In the meantime, we should be encouraging regular business and less frequent leisure travellers to do their bit too, by helping reduce the worrying and growing ***climate change*** impacts of air travel by making, say, every other trip by rail instead of plane, where these alternatives exist.

Richard Faulkner

Chair, All-party parliamentary sustainable aviation group

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); AIRLINES PASSENGER TRAFFIC (78%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (74%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (74%); LEISURE TRAVEL (72%)

**Industry:** RAIL TRANSPORTATION (90%); HIGH SPEED TRAINS (90%); TRAINS (78%); AIRLINES PASSENGER TRAFFIC (78%); LEISURE TRAVEL (72%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (71%); BARCELONA, SPAIN (57%); CATALONIA, SPAIN (71%); SCOTLAND (77%); EUROPE (77%); SPAIN (72%); UNITED KINGDOM (56%)

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Transport: Fast, not furious: Morgan to build quiet sports car - Correction Appended***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H5W-7TW0-00VR-R2B4-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

**Correction Appended**



Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 7

**Length:** 104 words

**Byline:** John Vidal

**Body**

The classic car maker Morgan is to develop one of the the world's quietest sports cars after being given £1.9m by the government to work with others on a hydrogen fuel cell-powered car.

The fuel cell will be fitted to a Lotus Aero 8, which can reach 150mph, and will convert hydrogen into electricity, producing only water vapour. The car will not produce any carbon emissions, but the electricity needed to make its fuel could be polluting. "We accept the problems of ***climate change*** and think that it would be irresponsible for any manufacturer not to act," said Charles Morgan, the car's project director.

**Correction**

\* The proposed hydrogen fuel cell-powered sports car is the Morgan Aero 8 and not, as we wrongly stated, the Lotus Aero 8 (Transport: Fast, not furious: Morgan to build quiet sports car, page 7, September 24).  
**Correction-Date:** October 12, 2005

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** FUEL CELL VEHICLES (78%); HYDROGEN POWERED VEHICLES (78%); EMISSIONS (77%); GREENHOUSE GASES (76%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (75%)

**Industry:** FUEL CELL TECHNOLOGY (91%); MOTOR VEHICLES (90%); SPORTS CARS (90%); FUEL CELL VEHICLES (78%); HYDROGEN POWERED VEHICLES (78%); AUTOMOBILE MFG (78%); AUTOMAKERS (78%); AUTOMOTIVE MFG (78%); (78%); HYDROGEN ENERGY (77%); EMISSIONS (77%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Travel: Escapes: The wagon stops here: The novelty has worn off your New Year resolutions. It's time to have some fun. Kieran Falconer knows where to let yourself go***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FC3-WR40-00VR-R52R-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

January 29, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Travel Pages, Pg. 6

**Length:** 1011 words

**Byline:** Kieran Falconer

**Body**

It's the end of January, you've suffered enough, get off the wagon, light up, order all the desserts and start retoxing. By giving up everything you love, you may well live two months longer but is it worth all the papaya juicing, low-GI and yogalates?

Losing weight

Where to break it: Paris

You may have seen the new book French Women Don't Get Fat, which describes how French women burn so many calories laughing at English women that they can eat what they like. Also typically French is the way chocolate is treated with the reverence of high fashion. Several pages of the Paris telephone directory are filled with chi chi shops with cabinets, marble counters and little men in livery protecting paves, ganaches and bonbons. First stop is La Maison du Chocolat (8 boulevard de la Madeleine) whose founder, Robert Linxe, is referred to as "the Creator" and rates a full five bars on the chocometer, then Jean-Paul Hevin (231 rue St-Honore) a patissier with a sideline in chocs - be wary of the roquefort/walnut chocs though. Finally, Michel Chaudun's shop (149 rue de l'Universite) near the Invalides offers an old-fashioned chocologue.

Book it: Travelsupermarket .com has two nights' B&B at the Comfort Hotel Nation Davout Paris for £220pp (two sharing) including BA flights from Manchester on March 4.

Giving up drinking

Where to break it: Munich

Binge drinking doesn't happen in Munich because drinking never stops. It isn't just the Oktoberfest, there just isn't any excuse to put the litre down and sober up. Continental sophistication means a resident band oompahing its way through the hit parade while blonde women in dirndls carry foaming steins of goodness, sausages, half chickens, pork knuckle, dumplings and pretzels. Beer halls are perfect for the winter while beer gardens with shady chestnut trees are the best thing in summer and autumn. Munich's favourites remain the Hofbrauhaus (Am Platzl 9), a 4,000-seater beer hall, and the Chinese Tower in the English Garden, a beer garden seating 7,000. For more sophistication, try Schumann's (Maximilianstrasse 36) where you might bump into Boris Becker.

Book it: Dertour (020-7290 1111, dertour.co.uk) has three nights' B&B in Munich from £269pp including flights.

Giving up smoking

Where to break it: Riga

Latvia has the cheapest cigarettes in the European Union (37p a packet). Whereas Ireland and Italy have consigned smokers to the outside, and even Cardiff pubs are now following suit, the human chimneys of Riga are merrily causing localised ***climate change***. Even their food is smoked - smoked flounder, eel, herring and pilchards are staples - although sadly not in tobacco smoke. Since independence in 1991, there has been a noisy explosion of smoke-filled bars, cafes and nightclubs with a mix of Latvians, Russians, Belorussians, Ukrainians and Poles. Take the glass lift to the Skyline Bar on the 29th floor of the Revel Hotel to take in the whole city with a beer and fag in hand. To the west of the city there is a string of beaches and pine forests and even more nightclubs.

Book it: Regent Holidays (0117 9211711, regent-holidays.co.uk) has three nights' B&B in Riga from £245pp including flights.

Going to the gym or using a pedometer

Where to break it: Barcelona

Do you think they subscribe to Men's Health or buy pedometers in Spain? Do you think they worry about spinning classes in Barcelona? Walk down the Ramblas and will you ever hear "Hey Jose, let's go ab training!" No, I don't think so. Because exercise is basically uncool and therefore frowned upon in this city.

Barcelona is where Gaudi's great masterpiece the Sagrada Familia was begun in 1882 but won't be finished until 2017, where they waited more than 300 years to add a final little bit to the cathedral, and where they eat so late it's almost breakfast. Sit on the beach in nearby Sitges and soak up all that important vitamin D, then go to a cafe on the beach and laze until the evening. The only acceptable form of exercise in Spain is flamenco and sex.

Book it: Trailfinders (020-7937 1234, trailfinders.com) has two nights' B&B in Barcelona from £178pp including flights.

Taking up a hobby or evening class

Where to break it: Venice

By this stage, evening classes have palled a bit. Every French verb seems irregular, you'll never make an artist and dressmaking wasn't a good look, was it? Give up. When the college prospectus comes through the door again, put it under the hamster. Take a tip from the Italians. It takes, on average, six years just to complete a bachelor's degree. Venice is an extravagant, sinking jewel box. Small, difficult to get around (118 islets), every street is a history, every church a lifetime's study, and even the cafes sink under the weight of anecdotage. St Mark's Square, Basilica, Campanile, Palazzo Ducale and the Rialto bridge: all of this should teach you that life is too short to learn about even this small corner of civilisation. Give up and have an ice cream.

Book it: Kirker Holidays (0870 1123333, kirkerholidays.com) has three nights' B&B in Venice from £399pp including flights and transfers.

Any other resolution you can think of

Where to break it: Amsterdam

I don't mean anything as crude as drugs or sex. But it has all the vices of modern society so that just by entering the city, a little sleaze has peeled off and attached itself to you. It makes you feel dirty, illicit, in a Little-Baby-Jesus-is-watching-me kind of way. Anybody at all moral wouldn't approve of this trip. Of course, it also has museums, a good orchestra, haute cuisine, a good cafe culture, some chic boutique hotels and the most laidback inhabitants in Europe. But when you return to your mates, you need only half smile, wink and lean back in wistful contemplation to give the convincing impression of having carried out heinous debauchery. Which you may have done.

Book it: ebookers (0870 8146024, ebookers.com) has two nights in the five-star Radisson SAS from £179pp including flights.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** SMOKING (89%); BOOK REVIEWS (77%); ALCOHOL ABUSE & ADDICTION (68%); SUBSTANCE ABUSE (63%); EUROPEAN UNION (60%); SMOKING CESSATION (60%)

**Industry:** DRINKING PLACES (89%); BOOK REVIEWS (77%); FASHION DESIGNERS (71%); HOTELS & MOTELS (65%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (91%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (77%); RIGA, LATVIA (65%); CARDIFF, WALES (50%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (79%); ENGLAND (72%); GERMANY (68%); EUROPE (68%); LATVIA (51%)

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2005

**End of Document**

[***UK must 'invest or risk power cuts'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FKX-N610-00VR-R0FR-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 2, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian City Pages, Pg. 21

**Length:** 407 words

**Byline:** Mark Milner

**Body**

The UK could face power cuts in the coming years unless it acts now to encourage companies to invest in more generating capacity, according to a leading industry executive.

Andrew Duff, the chief executive of RWE npower, warned yesterday that Britain needed significant investment either in new capacity or to upgrade existing power stations before the end of the decade if shortages were to be avoided.

But he told an Amicus-sponsored energy conference in London that investors would lack the certainty they needed unless the government took a clear line on European regulations governing emissions from fossil fuel power stations.

The government must defend its national allocation plan covering carbon emissions - an issue over which it is in dispute with Brussels - and fix the emission limits for the power generation sector for the second phase of the emissions trading scheme, which begins in 2008.

It must also act immediately to determine how the "large combustion plant directive", which governs emissions such as sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, would be implemented. "Unless we invest a significant amount in capacity by the end of the decade we will have problems," Mr Duff said. The government was taking the industry's ability to adapt to change for granted. "This is a dangerous thing to do," he said. "We need reassurance that the government is committed to a stable economic environment."

Ian Russell, the chief executive of Scottish Power, said he expected the necessary investment to come from existing rather than new players, but "only if the levels of return are greater than at the moment".

The energy minister, Mike O'Brien, told the conference that the government was aware of the issues facing the industry. The UK did not lack an energy policy, and in the 2003 white paper it had set out its strategy through to 2050.

Security of supply, he said, would come from diversity built around gas from a number of suppliers and from coal, renewables and nuclear.

He acknowledged there were certain aspects of the regulatory framework that remained uncertain but said the government had a broad strategy "to deal with various difficulties which may be before us".

Mr O'Brien emphasised the importance of renewable energy and saving energy in the fight against ***climate change***. The government's nuclear options remained open, but only if the economics of nuclear power changed.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** AIR QUALITY REGULATION (90%); EMISSIONS (90%); LEGISLATION (78%); EXECUTIVES (77%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (77%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (76%); ENERGY DEPARTMENTS (76%); PUBLIC POLICY (75%); GREENHOUSE GASES (75%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (75%); NITROGEN OXIDES (75%); ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (70%); EMISSIONS CREDITS (70%)

**Company:** RWE NPOWER PLC  (58%); RWE NPOWER PLC  (58%)

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (90%); FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANTS (90%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (90%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (89%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (89%); NUCLEAR ENERGY (78%); NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS (77%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (77%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (76%); ENERGY & UTILITY REGULATION & POLICY (76%); ENERGY DEPARTMENTS (76%); EMISSIONS CREDITS (70%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); SCOTLAND (79%); EUROPE (79%)

**Load-Date:** March 2, 2005

**End of Document**

[***United Nations summit: Poverty targets will be missed, UN admits: Diplomat warns of watered-down paper: Blair worried Gleneagles progress will be reversed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H3R-TTT0-00VR-R40G-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 14, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian International Pages, Pg. 17

**Length:** 631 words

**Byline:** Ewen MacAskill, New York and Larry Elliot

**Body**

Diplomat warns of

watered-down paper

Blair worried Gleneagles

progress will be reversed

Ewen MacAskill New York

Larry Elliott

The UN admitted yesterday for the first time that its summit of world leaders that begins in New York today is unlikely to meet the ambitious targets for the organisation's reform and tackle world poverty.

Mark Malloch Brown, chief of staff of

the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, said he would now settle for half of the original programme. He said ideadlines are starting to loosen mindsi but was not optimistic about producing a substantive document.

iThere's a threshold where we always knew we wouldn't get the full loaf. We've got to start counting slices. Half or more will do at this stage,i he said.

Diplomats have failed to reach agreement after weeks of negotiation on a 39- page summit document to be published on Friday. Gnter Pleuger, the German ambassador to the UN, said he expected

perhaps ia watered-down paperi.

Anti-poverty campaigners are already claiming the three-day summit o to be attended by around 149 leaders o has

failed to live up to its promises to take decisive steps on poverty reduction and reform. Oxfam described the development section of the latest draft summit

document as a irecycling of old pledgesi.

Save the Children said the chance of a historic breakthrough on poverty ihad all but slipped through the fingers of world

leadersi. It added: iCrucial commitments backing anti-poverty measures have not been put in place which opens the

prospects of this being the summit that kills off any realistic chance of achieving the millennium development goals.i

The summit is supposed to review progress on the millennium development goals set out in 2000, which include halving poverty by 2015 and ensuring universal primary education.

George Bush is scheduled to speak at the opening session this morning. Tony Blairwill press other countries to put aside

their differences in the interests of tackling

world poverty. He is worried that progress made at the G8 meeting at Gleneagles in July on aid and debt might end up being reversed.

The prime minister believes elections in Germany and Japan, together with the impact of Hurricane Katrina in the US, might make it more difficult to persuade G8 members to make good on their promises and to widen the Gleneagles

agreement to other rich countries.

Although some development campaigners have criticised the government for exaggerating the success of the Gleneagles

deal, Mr Blair believes he pushed the G8 as far as possible. A Downing Street source said: iWe always said Gleneagles

was just a beginning and it is going to take quite a fight to build on it. There is the risk of a backlash.i

Progress has been made during negotiations on genocide, with limited progress on the creation of two UN bodies, a human rights council and a peace-building commission. There is no new money for aid or debt relief. Nor has there been movement on ***climate change***, arms proliferation or

expansion of the security council.

The negotiations have been caught in a squeeze between John Bolton, the US ambassador, who is being blamed by other ambassadors for introducing hundreds of late changes, and a group of countries that one European diplomat referred to as ithe awkward squadi, including Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Cuba and Venezuela.

Jack Straw, the British foreign secretary, who will arrive in New York on Friday, was hopeful. iThe process of negotiations between over 150 countries is always intrinsically difficult But I think you will find that the overall conclusions are greatly better than many people thought.i

Leader comment, page 34 >=

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** UNITED NATIONS (90%); POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS (90%); RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS (89%); AGREEMENTS (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (79%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (79%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (77%); HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (73%); GENOCIDE (73%); PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION (72%); ELECTIONS (72%); HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (70%); PRIMARY SCHOOLS (65%); HURRICANE KATRINA (50%)

**Company:** UNITED NATIONS   (94%);  UNITED NATIONS  (94%);  SAVE THE CHILDREN   (54%);  SAVE THE CHILDREN  (54%)

**Organization:** UNITED NATIONS   (94%);  UNITED NATIONS  (94%);  SAVE THE CHILDREN   (54%);  SAVE THE CHILDREN  (54%); UNITED NATIONS   (94%);  UNITED NATIONS  (94%);  SAVE THE CHILDREN   (54%);  SAVE THE CHILDREN  (54%)

**Industry:** PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION (72%); PRIMARY SCHOOLS (65%)

**Person:** GEORGE W BUSH (50%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, USA (92%); GERMANY (90%); JAPAN (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Universities go nuclear with 6m research boost***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HG5-H4N0-TX0B-N394-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

November 1, 2005

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**Length:** 433 words

**Highlight:** British research councils today announced a 6m effort to increase nuclear expertise at UK universities - and to make the technology a more acceptable energy source.

**Body**

British research councils today announced a 6m effort to increase nuclear expertise at UK universities - and to make the technology a more acceptable energy source.

It is the funding bodies' single largest commitment to fission reactor research for more than 30 years.

The four-year programme aims not only to do research that could make nuclear power more attractive, but to train a new generation of engineers for an industry suffering a shortage of recruits.

The Keeping the Nuclear Option Open programme will be led by Imperial College London, in collaboration with the universities of Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Bristol, Cardiff and the Open University.

The programme was announced at the launch of Imperial College's Energy Futures Lab, which aims to play a major role in setting the energy agenda over the next 20 to 50 years.

Supporters of nuclear power now see it as an increasingly attractive option for combating ***climate change***, because it is a low-carbon alternative to burning fossil fuels.

Research will examine issues such as how nuclear reactor systems function, how reactors are monitored, and how reactor waste can be dealt with.

Professor Robin Grimes, the project co-ordinator at Imperial, said: "Having neglected nuclear reactor science and technology for 20 years, it is now clear that a broad research programme is necessary if we are to be in position to underpin a new reactor based generating capacity.

"Nuclear power is clearly a route to achieving the UK's commitment to reducing its carbon emissions under the Kyoto accord.

"We also intend that our programme will begin to address the acute shortage of people with the science and engineering background necessary to pursue a career related to the generation of electricity from nuclear reactors," he added.

Professor Julia King, principal of the faculty of engineering, said: "We are excited that Imperial is leading this important initiative. The award reinforces Imperial's position as a leading player in a broad range of advanced energy technologies.

"The initiative reverses the trend towards decline in nuclear research, at a critical time for UK energy policy. It also enables us to help train a new generation of engineers in nuclear power and their skills will be essential for the future of the industry," she added.Greenpeace said 6m was a tiny sum in terms of nuclear research - but nevertheless criticised the programme.

"Any research and development should be going on renewable sources and energy efficiency, which have always been underfunded," said Jean McSorley, senior adviser on the group's nuclear campaign.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (89%); NUCLEAR SCIENCE (89%); TECHNICIANS & TECHNOLOGICAL WORKERS (89%); ENGINEERING (89%); RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (89%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (78%); NUCLEAR ENGINEERING (78%); EMISSIONS (78%); ELECTRICITY GENERATING CAPACITY (78%); TRENDS (73%); HAZARDOUS WASTE (73%); GREENHOUSE GASES (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (73%); SHORTAGES (71%)

**Industry:** NUCLEAR ENERGY (92%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (89%); NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS (89%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (89%); ENGINEERING (89%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (89%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (78%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (78%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (78%); NUCLEAR ENGINEERING (78%); EMISSIONS (78%); ELECTRICITY GENERATING CAPACITY (78%); ENERGY & UTILITY REGULATION & POLICY (73%); HAZARDOUS WASTE (73%); ENERGY MARKETS (73%); FUTURES (54%)

**Geographic:** SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND (79%); LONDON, ENGLAND (74%); CARDIFF, WALES (74%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (59%); UNITED KINGDOM (89%)

**Load-Date:** November 1, 2005

**End of Document**

[***US tries to sink forests plan: British initiative on illegal logging opposed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FPX-M350-00VR-R51B-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 16, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 15

**Length:** 666 words

**Byline:** Paul Brown and Roger Harrabin

**Body**

The US plans to wreck a British initiative to commit the G8 states to combating illegal logging in the world's threatened rainforests, a leaked memorandum revealed last night.

Hilary Benn, the development secretary, wants G8 environment and development ministers meeting in Derby tomorrow and on Friday to insist that all timber bought by official bodies in rich countries comes from properly managed forests.

The British initiative was prompted by Indonesia, which said corruption in the country was so rampant the authorities did not have the power to tackle the supply of timber by criminal gangs. Indonesia urged rich countries to reduce demand for illegal supplies by requiring proper certificates showing wood had come from properly managed forests.

But industry lobbyists in the US have resisted moves to certify timber. A US state department memo leaked to the BBC's Newsnight shows the US will refuse to sign up to the Benn initiative.

The state department head of forest policy, Stephanie Caswell, drafted a strategy in January designed to scupper the Benn plan, an "Input to strategy paper for G8 environment and development ministerial". Under what she described as "watch out items" is timber procurement. She said that "new import regula tions/restrictions are unacceptable. We do not support issuance of 'action plan' by ministers. It should not be highlighted." The paper adds that the "US will work with Canada to hold back procurement actions and with Russia and Japan to dissuade them from supporting UK".

A state department spokesman said the paper was genuine, but said it was never formally accepted as US strategy. He confirmed that the US had reservations over proposals for new rules on timber procurement in America, but insisted that in this week's negotiations the US would allow other G8 partners to decide whether to support Mr Benn's scheme.

He said the US "might have had some discussions with Japan on the fringes of meetings about the issue" in G8 preparatory meetings, but said the Japanese would make up their own minds.

Europe is strongly backing Mr Benn's initiative, and the US tactics drew a furious response from rainforest campaigners. Faith Doherty of the Environmental Investigation Agency in the UK said: "This is outrageous. US business simply doesn't want any restrictions on its own practices."

Japan's foreign ministry told Newsnight that its position was much closer to the UK than to the US. It is understood that Russia is also lining up with the Europeans.

Agus Setyarso, an Indonesian expert on forests who works with Mr Benn's department, said the Indonesian gov ernment could not contain the organised crime rings carrying out the illegal logging without help.

"The problem cannot be attacked from within the country, but from the market side," he said. "What we are asking from developed countries is twofold. One is to stop buying illegal timber from producer countries. The second is to help us in bringing back the systems in our country in such a way that the market and the law enforcement can be back to normal."

A spokesman for Mr Benn's department said it did not comment on leaked memos, and negotiations over the statement for the end of the G8 meeting were continuing. Privately, however, officials were said to be angry at the US's refusal to join international efforts.

Other observers feel the state department's position is driven by ideology. Forest campaigners say the US position is a serious blow, because if all the G8 nations signed up to the Benn plan it would guarantee a substantial proportion of world timber was properly produced and send a clear signal to companies and exporting nations.

In an echo of the debate over ***climate change***, the US is sceptical about G8 timber policies because China is a huge importer of stolen timber. Campaigners say China is unlikely to change unless rich countries put their house in order.

Saving the forests, Society, page 14

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (90%); INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (90%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (89%); ILLEGAL LOGGING (89%); LOBBYING (78%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); RAIN FORESTS (78%); CORRUPTION (78%); ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (77%); INVESTIGATIONS (75%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (72%)

**Company:** US DEPARTMENT OF STATE   (83%);  US DEPARTMENT OF STATE  (83%)

**Organization:** US DEPARTMENT OF STATE   (83%);  US DEPARTMENT OF STATE  (83%); US DEPARTMENT OF STATE   (83%);  US DEPARTMENT OF STATE  (83%)

**Industry:** FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (90%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (90%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); ILLEGAL LOGGING (89%); FORESTRY REGULATION & POLICY (78%); FORESTRY & LOGGING TRADE (78%); TELEVISION NEWS SHOWS (73%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (98%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); INDONESIA (94%); JAPAN (93%); EUROPE (92%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (90%); CANADA (79%)

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Wal-Mart proclaims its conversion to a caring, sharing firm: World's largest retailer sets emission and fuel targets: Union dismisses calls for higher wages as a 'stunt'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HDP-P0V0-00VR-R2NC-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 26, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Financial Pages, Pg. 26

**Length:** 815 words

**Byline:** David Teather, New York

**Body**

Wal-Mart, under mounting attack from critics, pledged yesterday to invest hundreds of millions of dollars a year to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, press Washington to increase the minimum wage and introduce more affordable healthcare for its American workers.

In a wide-ranging address to the firm's employees, the chief executive, Lee Scott, said the world's largest retailer would become a more pro-active company on issues that it had historically dealt with from a "defensive posture".

In the speech, Mr Scott laid out specific targets for the company: increasing fuel efficiency of its fleet by 25% within three years; reducing greenhouse gases from existing stores by 20% within seven years and reducing solid waste from its stores by 25% within three years. It hopes to design and open a prototype store that produces 30% less greenhouse gas emissions within the next four years.

The address has turned the world's largest public company by revenues into an overtly political animal and, at first glance, an unlikely ally of the left.

While the Bush administration still questions the facts behind ***climate change*** and withdrew from the Kyoto treaty, Mr Scott suggested there was little doubt remaining. "This used to be controversial but the science is in and it is overwhelming," he said. "We believe every company has a responsibility to reduce greenhouse gases as quickly as it can . . . we should view the environment as (hurricane) Katrina in slow motion."

The company said it would invest $ 500m (£280m) a year in new technologies to achieve its aims. The company is experimenting with solar panels, wind turbines and used cooking and motor oil for heating at a store in McKinney, Texas.

Mr Scott said the company would also be pressing for regulatory change to create incentives to invest in alternative energy sources. It would also push for changes among suppliers. It plans, for instance, to replace PVC packaging for Wal-Mart's private brands with sustainable and recyclable materials within two years. The company is also beginning to introduce clothing in its George line made of organic cotton. Mr Scott said the initiatives were the result of meetings over the past 12-18 months with detractors including environmental groups but pointedly, not unions; the company steadfastly opposes its workers organising.

As the company has grown relentlessly, Wal-Mart, which owns Asda in Britain, has been held up as the epitome of corporate bad behaviour. It has come under fire for depressing wages and its poor healthcare provision for US workers; over its environmental record; for destroying town centres and local businesses; forcing suppliers to outsource at the cost of local jobs, often to countries with poor environmental and worker laws; and the diversity of its workforce, among other things.

Wake-Up Wal-Mart, a group backed by the United Food and Commercial Workers union, dismissed yesterday's efforts as empty actions. A spokesman, Chris Kofinis, called it "a publicity stunt meant to repair a faltering public image".

Mr Scott said the US minimum hourly wage of $ 5.15 (£2.89) was "out of date . . . We can see first-hand at Wal-Mart how many of our customers are struggling to get by." A proposal to raise the minimum wage was thrown out of the senate this week; it was last lifted in 1996 and is at its lowest level in real terms since 1956. In Britain, the minimum wage is £5.05.

He said: "While it is unusual for us to take a public position on a public policy issue of this kind, we simply believe it is time for Congress to take a responsible look at the minimum wage and other legislation that may help working families." The firm is introducing a "value option" healthcare plan of $ 23 a month in the US and setting up in-store health clinics.

Mr Scott said the changes would be good for business. Doubling fuel efficiency of its fleet of lorries by 2015 would save $ 310m a year, he said. Making the packaging smaller on one line of toys cut freight costs by $ 2.4m, he added.

Wal-Mart has enlisted Conservation International to endorse its programme. Peter Seligmann, chief executive of the environmental lobbying group, said: "All sectors of society have to be included and engaged in conservation and Wal-Mart stepping up is an important development and an important signal."

Mr Scott admitted he had undergone something of a conversion in the past year. "If you'd asked me 12-18 months ago, I would have said focusing on the environment sounded more like a good PR campaign than substance because we thought we were responsible. We were recycling responsibly and are not wasteful."

Store scores

2004 sales $ 285bn (£160bn).

Employees 1.6 million

Shoppers 138 million a week

Stores in the United States 3,779

Stores outside the US 1,641

Rise in sales abroad last year 18%

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** GREENHOUSE GASES (99%); EMISSIONS (90%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (90%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); OUTSOURCING (77%); WAGES & SALARIES (77%); LABOR UNIONS (77%); HEALTH CARE POLICY (77%); MINIMUM WAGE (77%); LABOR FORCE (77%); PRIVATE LABELS (76%); ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (73%); LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW (72%); WORKPLACE DIVERSITY (72%); EXECUTIVES (71%); CLIMATOLOGY (71%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (71%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (69%); WASTE REDUCTION (69%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (69%); PRODUCT PACKAGING (68%); HURRICANE KATRINA (50%)

**Company:** WAL-MART STORES INC  (96%); WAL-MART STORES INC  (96%)

**Ticker:** WMT (NYSE)  (96%); WMT (NYSE)  (96%)

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (90%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); AUTOMOTIVE FUELS (78%); HEALTH CARE POLICY (77%); RETAIL MERCHANDISE MANAGEMENT (76%); RETAILERS (76%); MATERIALS RECOVERY & RECYCLING (70%); WASTE REDUCTION (69%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (69%); WIND ENERGY (69%); PRODUCT PACKAGING (68%); SOLAR ENERGY (63%); WIND POWER PLANTS (63%); COTTON FABRICS (60%)

**Person:** H LEE SCOTT JR (79%)

**Geographic:** TEXAS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (93%)

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Watchdog blames councils over flood risk: Approvals threaten people and property, says agency: Worst authorities to be named and shamed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H86-J590-00VR-R0TX-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 5, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 6

**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** Rob Evans and Paul Brown

**Body**

Tens of thousands of lives and homes are being put at risk because councils are allowing properties to be built in areas that are at serious risk of flooding, the head of the Environment Agency warns today.

In an interview with the Guardian, Lady Young, the chief executive of the government watchdog, said some local authorities keep ignoring the agency's advice by granting planning permission for developments on flood plains. She is demanding tougher powers to deal with councils and is going to "name and shame" the worst offenders.

"What surprises me is that having consulted the flood risk experts at the agency, local authorities are prepared to put people's property and lives at risk by allowing development in the flood plain," she said. "They could not do this if they had seen, as I have, the heartbreak of people whose homes have been flooded. It also wrecks people's feeling of security and induces fear every time there is heavy rain."

Her criticisms come as ministers are warning that the problem of floods will get worse, while the agency has been monitoring events in New Orleans. In Britain at least five million people in 2m homes are in areas at risk of flood. The government believes that the number of people in danger and the costs of flood damage will rise significantly, partly as a result of ***climate change***.

Lady Young estimates that in 40% of cases, local councils are flouting Whitehall guidance by not even consulting the agency before they give planning permission. She is also dismayed that some councils are failing to conduct a proper evaluation of the hazards. "There are a small number of local authorities which are convinced they know best and are just not prepared to seek advice. As a result 20 or so major developments get through the system each year, and about 300 minor ones, with us never hearing about them until it is too late," she said.

Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show how councils and developers disagree with the agency's opinion about the risks.

Councils also complain that the agency fails to give its opinions on time. The agency accepts that this has happened in a fifth of the cases it opposed, but promises to speed up. A spokesman for the Local Government Association said the number of cases in which councils had overridden the agency was falling.

Michael Meacher, the former environment minister, said the number of developments being granted permission against agency advice was "scandalous and too high. The incidence and ferocity of these storms is increasing". He supported the call for stronger powers.

The agency has been lobbying the government to make it compulsory for councils to ask the opinion of the Environment Agency. If the agency objected and the council went ahead, the council would lay itself open to legal action from residents.

The agency wants ministers to make it a legal obligation for councils to complete a risk assessment for every development in the flood plain. Lady Young said the agency was not inflexible. It was possible to mitigate many problems by building flood defences or diverting flood water. . She said the agency worked with the insurance industry "to squeeze those that are prepared . . . to expose people to unnecessary risk". Every time the agency finds developments going ahead in the flood plain against its advice, it notifies the Association of British Insurers.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** FLOOD ZONES (91%); LAND USE PLANNING (90%); FLOODS & FLOODING (90%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (89%); LOBBYING (77%); WEATHER (77%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (77%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (77%); LITIGATION (75%); INTERVIEWS (72%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (60%); EXECUTIVES (57%)

**Company:** ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  (60%)

**Organization:** ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  (60%); ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  (60%)

**Industry:** FLOOD ZONES (91%); LAND USE PLANNING (90%)

**Geographic:** NEW ORLEANS, LA, USA (79%); LOUISIANA, USA (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 5, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Water firms miss leakage targets***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GMH-RM50-TX0B-N25T-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

July 14, 2005

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**Length:** 969 words

**Highlight:** A consumer group has called on the water regulator to act after two water companies failed to hit targets on reducing leakage from their pipes, it emerged today.

**Body**

A consumer group has called on the water regulator to act after two water companies failed to hit targets on reducing leakage from their pipes, it emerged today.

Thames Water in the south-east and United Utilities in the north-west both missed their targets by millions of litres a day, according to a study from the Office of Water Services (Ofwat).

Other companies in England and Wales fared better, leading to an overall reduction in the number of litres of water lost to pipe leakage.

Thames Water, which serves London and the Thames Valley, missed its target for the third year running, despite reducing leakage by 30m litres a day. Between April 2004 and March 2005, 915m litres a day disappeared from its pipes - more than its target of 905m litres.

Ofwat said leakage in London was "still unacceptably high" and set Thames Water a target of reducing leakage to 725m litres a day by 2009-10.

Thames Water said it may impose restrictions on water use - such as a hosepipe ban - later in the summer.

The company has started a programme to replace more than 745 miles (1,200 km) of water pipes in London.

Mark Simister, the company's leakage strategy manager, added: "In recent months, we have cut the figure by around another 50m litres per day and our leakage level today is at its lowest since late 2001.

"Reducing leakage remains our top priority. We began a major programme to replace our oldest and leakiest mains three years ago and have since renewed 140 miles of pipes.

"We aim to accelerate this work, to lay a further 850 miles over the next five years at a cost of more than 500m."

Mr Simister said the company repaired an average of about 200 leaks a day or more than 700,000 a year.

"We face particular challenges in parts of London, where the clay soil puts unusual stresses on our pipes and has a corrosive effect on their structure," he added. "We also have to deal with heavy traffic, ageing pipework, and the fact that much of the capital is concreted over.

United Utilities reported rising leakage for the third year running, according to the report. Last year 500m litres a day were lost from its pipes - compared with its target of 470m litres.

The firm supplies water to about 6.9 million people in the north-west - stretching from Cumbria to Cheshire.

John Barnes, chief operating officer for water for the company, said: "Although it is disappointing to miss our target narrowly, this has not affected our ability to keep water on tap in the region.

"There is no water shortage in the north-west and we have no plans to impose restrictions."

He said the company had reduced leakage by almost half since the 1990s.

Total reported leakage by the industry fell by 41m litres a day to 3,609m litres a day.

Ofwat said the overall savings across England and Wales were enough to supply the daily needs of more than 100,000 households.

"I am pleased that total leakage has fallen," said Philip Fletcher, director general of water services at Ofwat. "However, I am still concerned about the situation in the north-west and in London.

"We will continue to monitor closely the leakage control work of Thames and United Utilities to ensure they improve and meet their leakage targets."

He said he would not hesitate to fine a water company if it consistently failed to hit its target.

"The current water restrictions in the south-east, resulting from the exceptionally dry weather, have brought leakage into sharper focus," he added.

Cambridge Water also narrowly missed its yearly target but was still within the three-year rolling average used by Ofwat as a guideline.

Environment minister Elliot Morley said it was "frustrating" to see water being wasted, given the recent low rainfall.

"Increasing demand for water and the effects of ***climate change*** are placing greater stress on our water resources," he said.

"We are urging consumers to use water wisely and efficiently so I look to Ofwat to ensure that water companies match their efforts and continue to reduce their levels of leakage."

Pete Bowler, campaign offices at consumer group WaterWatch, said it was time Ofwat took action against the firms which failed to hit targets, "rather than just wringing its hands".

"Ofwat needs to say to Thames Water 'you must now, today, employ enough people, either on a contract basis or permanently, to get the leakage back down, and you have got 18 months to do it,'" he said.

If companies failed to meet Ofwat's targets, Mr Bowler said the government should consider legislation to force them to take action.

He said leakage in London had increased rapidly five years ago and the company had been "tinkering round the edges" rather than taking appropriate measures to cut water loss, as a result it was still not back down to the levels prior to 2000.

He accepted that an ageing underground pipe network posed problems for Thames Water, but criticised plans to increase water bills to pay for repairs.

"The underground pipes are the assets that the shareholders bought when the company was privatised. They don't last forever but they should be replaced using shareholders' money - after all that is simply replacing the assets."

He said a hosepipe ban looked to be necessary to conserve supplies, but questioned Thames Water's decision to delay putting a ban in place. "You cannot manage water on a just in time basis," he added.

Maurice Terry, chairman of the consumer group WaterVoice, said the failure of Thames Water and United Utilities to meet Ofwat's targets was "totally unacceptable" but he added that households and businesses also had a part to play in water conservation.

"Customers must be given proper advice on how to use water efficiently and sensibly, and additionally the role of water metering in conserving resources also needs to be critically assessed.

"All households and businesses should use water wisely."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** WATER CRISES & SHORTAGES (90%); WATER SUPPLY UTILITIES (89%); COMPANY STRATEGY (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (72%); EXECUTIVES (65%)

**Industry:** UTILITIES INDUSTRY (90%); WATER SUPPLY UTILITIES (89%); PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION (78%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); WALES (79%); ENGLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (57%)

**Load-Date:** July 14, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Weatherwatch***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HGT-MTR0-00VR-R0ST-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

November 5, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Weather Pages, Pg. 39

**Length:** 238 words

**Byline:** Tim Radford

**Body**

GK Chesterton's The Man Who Was Thursday (1908) was the inspiration for this series: it is one of those books in which the weather in the streets mirrors the drama of the soul. On the face of it, the book is about a battle of wits between a group of anarchists and an undercover policeman.

It is, of course, nothing of the kind: it is a huge and very serious joke, played out under a nightmare sky.

In chapter 9, for instance, the conspirators step out into a "pale and tragic dawn, lifting itself laboriously over London - a harsh white dawn, edged with banks of coarse red, more like red clay than red cloud." It is February, snow has fallen, and they are on their way by train to Dover and ferry to Calais, where they step ashore "under the strong sun" and the hero Gabriel Syme's eyes sparkle "like the bright sea below." One dawn later - the dawn of a duel - "the sun soaked everything in warmth, and Syme was vaguely surprised to see so many spring flowers burning gold and silver in the tall grass, in which the whole company stood almost knee-deep." What ***climate change*** is this, in which a chill London winter gives way to a warm Flanders spring in February?

The novella - Chesterton described much later as "melodramatic moonshine" - ends with another dawn in West London and a breeze "so clean and sweet that one could not think that it blew from the sky: it blew rather through some hole in the sky."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** FICTION LITERATURE (78%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (73%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (87%)

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Weatherwatch***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HV7-RHC0-TX37-G1R2-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 19, 2005 Monday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN WEATHER PAGES; Pg. 31

**Length:** 233 words

**Byline:** Paul Brown

**Body**

Frost fairs took place on the Thames when the river froze over long enough for tents and stalls to be erected, and the ice was thick enough to carry events such as bear-baiting and ox roasts. There were six between 1608 and 1814, and the longest lasted nearly six weeks.

The odds against the Thames freezing over anywhere between Twickenham and London Bridge this winter are quoted at 100-1, and to collect your winnings the ice does not have to be strong enough to walk on: a thin film will do for the bookies. The dates of the frost fairs coincided with what is known as the Little Ice Age, and while ***climate change*** is already making frosts in London rare, that is not all which has changed. A painting in the Guildhall Art Gallery of the Great Frost of 1739/40 shows ships frozen in the ice alongside people playing football and ice hockey, and pedestrians walking across the Thames. It is clear the river was much wider then.

Two other crucial differences in conditions involve the old London Bridge, the one which had houses on it. Archaeologists believe that in those days the tide did not reach far upriver of the bridge, if at all. Also, the bridge had so many narrow arches it created a sort of dam for the ice, drifting downstream, which collected against the piers and allowed the river to freeze over upstream. Records say that arches were carried away by the weight of ice when the thaw came.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** RIVERS (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (74%); ICE HOCKEY (73%); WINTER SPORTS (73%); ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY (52%); ARCHAEOLOGY (52%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (58%)

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Weatherwatch - Correction Appended***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4H6F-K3G0-00VR-R2XD-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

**Correction Appended**



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**Section:** Guardian Weather Pages, Pg. 31

**Length:** 240 words

**Byline:** Paul Brown

**Body**

The temperature of the sea around British coasts is crucial to our weather, and this time of the year the sea is at its warmest. What is popularly known as the Gulf Stream, but this far north is more properly known as the North Atlantic Drift, is getting warmer, and pushing further north, making even Iceland far more temperate than its name suggests.

This is the opposite of what some scientists said was happening only a short while ago, when some measurements and theories suggested the warm currents were slackening. This, they said, was due to the increased fresh water from melting ice in the Arctic and extra rain and river flow which they predicted, in the future, could even switch off the Gulf Stream. These was the thesis behind the entertaining but fanciful 2004 blockbuster, The Day After Tomorrow, which truncated a century of theoretical ***climate change*** into seven days and added some science fiction.

So there is much argument about what is really happening. A recent theory suggests the massive disturbance of the surface of the warm seas of the South At-lanctic by storms like Katrina mixes more layers of warm water together and has the effect of propelling them northwards to wash up eventually on UK shores.

If that happens we can certainly expect warmer, wetter winters, with more floods, fewer frosts and in the south almost no snow. After this hurricane season it could be an interesting winter.

**Correction**

\* In Weatherwatch, page 31, September 26, we referred to "the warm seas of the South Atlantic". We meant the southern North Atlantic.  
**Correction-Date:** September 28, 2005

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** WEATHER (78%); CLIMATOLOGY (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); OCEANS (78%); RIVERS (77%)

**Geographic:** ATLANTIC OCEAN (93%); ARCTIC (79%); ICELAND (77%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Weekend: home space: LOVE IS A BUNKER: This family is on a journey towards carbon-neutral living - starting with their sun-warmed, earth shelter home. By Oliver Bennett.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GS4-DH60-00VR-R2TK-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

July 30, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Weekend Pages, Pg. 58

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** Oliver Bennett

**Body**

In a small Lincolnshire town lives a low-carbon household. The Harrall family's four-bedroom, self-built house is packed into the earth, has a planted roof, vegetable garden and energy consumption a quarter of that of an ordinary house of the same size.

Jerry Harrall describes his single-storey, Teletubby-esque home as "earth-sheltered". "This building is a response to global ***climate change***," he says. "Our whole lifestyle is a response to that."

Harrall is not an atavistic type who yearns for the return of barter and hazel benders. In fact, he is a competitive cyclist and has built a gym in his garden. It is served, like the rest of his house, by solar-generated electricity.

When Harrall left school at 16, he became a plasterer, before retraining as an architect. "I'm on a journey of discovery," he says. "I've decided to make a difference in my life." He and his wife, Kay Woods, who have been together since they were 15, had to live with their children in a caravan on site during the build. It took almost four years. "It was tough," says Woods, stoically, "particularly when the weather was bad. Anyone who's done a self-build has been through it."

Their home is in Long Sutton, a town in south Lincolnshire with an air of past importance, whose church has the tallest wooden spire in Europe. It does not seem given to innovation - a recently installed hi-tech bus shelter was so reviled that two residents chained themselves to it in protest - but at the end of its eastwards straggle lie bungalows, a derelict petrol station, then the home of Harrall and family: on the same site as the offices of his architecture firm SEArch (Sustainable Ecological Architecture).

Unobtrusive to the point of invisibility from the road, there's a big hedge, a gravel area, then the two buildings, which are the performance part of Harrall's PhD at the University of Lincoln - his aim being to prove the long-term value of passive solar design, where buildings absorb and retain heat. Harrall's buildings have no foundations - just concrete blocks placed on the floor, rooted by gravity. His home's earth roof is covered by a woven membrane to keep it in place, and I notice that the periwinkles planted to cover it are slightly sparse, having succumbed to a disease. We enter via raised wooden walkways.

The initial effect is a bit like a field studies centre, and I'm still unsure until I get around the back - or rather the front - where the south-facing facade opens like a flower to pick up as much solar energy and heat as possible. "In the past, buildings were oriented towards the sun," says Harrall, lamenting that this elementary building wisdom is now generally ignored.

The house is reminiscent of the grass-topped bothies in Nordic climates. "Among my favourite buildings are those at Skara Brae in the Orkneys, the oldest known dwellings in the British Isles," says Harrall. "They're built into crags, face south, and had sod roofs. What we're doing is not that new."

The bricks in the walls make use of reclaimed materials: a mix of concrete and pulverised fuel ash and woodchip. A solar panel on the roof heats the water, but the family does take electricity from the grid - on a green tariff. Harrall is planning to install a wind turbine later this year to take them to full self-sufficiency. The kitchen walls are clad with aluminium, which looks dramatic - but Harrall isn't entirely happy. "It's the only metal that is truly recyclable, but I wouldn't use it again as it marks." Also mildly industrial is the larder, with its door of clear rubber blinds.

The effect is fastidious, even austere. There are no pendant lights, for instance: "We only have task lighting." The house has no skirting boards, lintels, drainpipes or radiators. The walls are painted rather than rendered, for which there is a good thermodynamic reason. "We expose the bricks to achieve a high thermal mass," Harrall explains. "In other words, the structure acts as a storage radiator, helping avoid extreme variations in internal temperature."

The house is filled with wooden furniture by local maker Deryk Gilham. He shares Harrall's passion for recycling and sourcing local materials, including bog oak - wood that fell into fenland swamps several thousand years ago and has an extraordinary, infinite black colour.

The house is clearly Harrall's passion. So how does his wife feel about it? "I'm spoiled for light and space, which is uplifting," she says. "We consider living here normal now. But I still notice when going to other houses how noisy they are. People often tell me how quiet it is here."

Though light floods into the wide facade of the house, what about the back, which is buried under a bank of earth? Here, Harrall has placed the 10m corridor which connects the four bedrooms and bathroom. This corridor receives secondary light , filtering into the bedrooms from the garden through shot-blasted glass doors.

Harrall's next project is that derelict petrol station on the other side of the road which he hopes will be Europe's first earth-sheltered field studies centre, with a range of buildings to spread the low-emission message. Perhaps we should call it Little Carbon.

SEArch, 01406 364646. You can see Deryk Gilham's furniture at Bonhams from August 6-14. Details on 020-7248 1677.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ARCHITECTURE (89%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); CHILDREN (78%); GREEN BUILDING (78%); GARDENING (77%); SUSTAINABILITY (77%); CLIMATOLOGY (76%); ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES (76%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (76%); CONSUMPTION (72%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (71%); CYCLING (55%)

**Industry:** ARCHITECTURE (89%); SOLAR ENERGY (89%); ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (78%); GREEN BUILDING (78%); ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES (76%); ENERGY CONSUMPTION (72%); FRUITS & VEGETABLES (72%)

**Geographic:** EUROPE (54%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Weekend: Space: NATURAL HIGH : CRUSTY? MOI? It's out with the bobble hats and mung beans - say hello to easy, stylish eco living***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FRJ-6280-00VR-R12R-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 19, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Weekend Pages, Pg. 45

**Length:** 296 words

**Byline:** Kevin McCloud

**Body**

Green is no longer a weird colour. Time was, even five years ago, when eco-friendly living was a fringe activity for men with beards and women who knitted sofas from organic porridge.

Sustainability was a nirvana with no cars and where people heated their homes with shared bodily warmth.

Now, the once arcane language of the ecologist is everywhere and sustainability is a mainstream concept. The basic principles of green living are clearer than ever, thanks to the near eradication of its hippy-dippy advocates, to clearer government legislation and to the way technology and science are starting to offer both an accurate diagnosis of ***climate change*** and some exciting solutions.

We have to live sustainably. If we don't, there won't be much of the planet left for our grandchildren. It's good to be thrifty, to repair things that break and to cycle to work. And it's hugely sensible to recycle as much as possible of what we consume. But it's now possible to be way, way greener. Deeply viridian. And that's because of the technology that's just around the corner. There is already a viable renewable energy industry you can support by buying electricity from a green supplier; soon, you'll be able to buy budget domestic environmental systems that can intelligently manage your energy consumption. You can already build, furnish and insulate your home with healthy and comfortable eco-friendly products.

For the first time, being planet-friendly doesn't mean making sacrifices - just simple changes.

Reader offer: Grand Designs Live is on June 10, 11 and 12 at the Excel Exhibition Centre, London E16, and has a strong sustainability theme. To buy a ticket for £10.50 in advance, instead of £15 on the door, call 0870 906 3805 and quote code GD9.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** SUSTAINABILITY (90%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (79%); PLANETS & ASTEROIDS (74%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (74%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (71%); CONSUMPTION (67%); GRANDCHILDREN (54%)

**Industry:** ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (79%); ENERGY CONSUMPTION (72%); ENERGY & UTILITY TRADE (71%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (71%); ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY (66%)

**Load-Date:** March 19, 2005

**End of Document**

[***What the world needs now is a green superstar: Tanya Aldred asks Beckham to save the planet***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4G2X-SBP0-00VR-R4VJ-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 2, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Sport Pages, Pg. 25

**Length:** 719 words

**Byline:** Tanya Aldred

**Body**

***Climate change*** is the gravest threat to our environment and economic security but, with only three days left until the general election, we have yet to hear about it. The government's chief scientific advisor may be shouting in our leaders' ears but the big three cower in the corner, convinced no one will vote to hibernate their car or restrict their Easyjet addiction.

What we need are some high-profile names to show them the way forward. Not worthy types already saving the whale, but loaded young icons who can choose any lifestyle they want - and still go green. Sportsmen, for example. David Beckham, say.

Beckham is a car addict. He is said to have 15 cars in his swanky Madrid garage, from a Ferrari 360 to a Hummer H2 - a fuel-guzzling no-no of a monster car. But what if his Real Madrid contract restricted him to only one vehicle - maybe the greenest model currently available, the Honda Civic. At £15,100 it would hardly stretch his budget and, with all the fuel savings to boot, would leave plenty of money for presents for the wife should any more Sunday newspapers come knocking with bad news.

What's more, instead of flying Victoria to Paris in a private jet painted with a "V" and scattered with rose petals, the new, green David Beckham could have wowed her on her recent 31st birthday with an environmentally responsible surprise. They could have jumped on an overnight train from Madrid Chamartin and woken up in Paris in time for a coffee before hitting the shops. Forget building the Beckham brand in Asia, the much neglected green consumer would have eyes for no one else.

And where Beckham leads, the rest of football follows. Suddenly, scores of players would refuse to fly to European games, joining Dennis Bergkamp on the train instead. They'd shun high-performance cars for bicycles, causing their managers to rejoice at the dramatic reduction in the number of players prosecuted for speeding or drink-driving.

And still the bug would spread. County cricket grounds, currently spitting out players' sponsored cars, would have parking bays only for buses - excellent for fostering team spirit. Specta tors could be offered cheaper tickets if they arrived for a match by public transport, and out-of-town sports grounds accessible only by car would become a thing of the past.

Players could even hark back to the 1950s and travel to matches by train. Arthur Milton, who played for Gloucestershire and England after the war, remembers train travel as a great thing. "We would all sit together, usually around a table for cards. We were always quite approachable if anyone recognised us - we were part of the working class. It was a great time, those early post-war years, for sport." And it didn't do Milton any harm - he was still out delivering the post in his 70s.

Today's players, mind you, could actually afford to eat in the dining car - too expensive for all but the amateurs travelling first class in the 1950s. And while the current lot might be allowed to fly to Australia (although the boat trip is far more romantic), they could certainly travel by train through India or Sri Lanka.

But what of all the hassle, the time players would have to spend getting from here to there? We know top athletes can't afford to stress their bodies, so they'd just have to accept a different lifestyle - maybe with days scheduled for sightseeing before and after their away games.

Travel would be slower but far more pleasant. And it would not be possible to play nearly so many matches, ending instantly all those complaints about player burnout. With fewer games, furthermore, the ones played become more important, so interest in them would soar.

Of course, chairmen and managers would have to abide by the same rules - so that's a Virgin supersaver return to Liverpool Lime Street for Jose and Roman tomorrow, if you please.

Sportsmen and women need the air to be clean. And, by accepting they can't go on living the lifestyles they have been for the good of the planet, they will offer a great example. Perhaps then the London bid team would not have offered free flights to all prospective 10,500 Olympic athletes. And our party leaders might even stop jetting around the country at election time and get back on their battle buses instead.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (79%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (79%); MARINE MAMMALS (79%); ELECTIONS (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); CRICKET (73%); CAR ENTHUSIASTS (71%); DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (71%); BICYCLES (70%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (67%); SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES & VENUES (67%)

**Company:** EASYJET PLC  (57%); EASYJET PLC  (57%)

**Ticker:** EZJ (LSE)  (57%); EZJ (LSE)  (57%)

**Industry:** TRAINS (88%); BUDGETS (78%); PARKING SPACES & FACILITIES (76%); GREEN MARKET (73%); BICYCLES (70%); SPONSORSHIP (68%)

**Person:** DAVID BECKHAM (89%)

**Geographic:** MADRID, SPAIN (93%); FRANCE (79%); ENGLAND (79%); ASIA (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2005

**End of Document**

[***What we're up to today***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4TB3-2T40-TX0B-N0FH-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

December 7, 2005

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**Length:** 197 words

**Body**

We're looking forward to new Tory leader David Cameron's first clash with Tony Blair in prime minister's questions today: as usual we'll be podcasting the whole thing and reporting on the highlights as it happens: we'll also bring you audio of political editor Michael White's analysis of the new boy's performance. Simon Jeffery has also penned a summary of the newspapers' verdicts on Cameron.

Meanwhile proceedings in the trial of Saddam Hussein are about to continue after a delay caused by the former dictator's refusal to appear in court and the prosecution is continuing to sum up in the trial of the man accused of murdering Peter Falconio.

Elsewhere on the site, Guardian Unlimited Football will be following the pantomime that is Portsmouth's bid to bring back manager Harry Redknapp and Culture Vulture blog is checking out Penguin's plans to podcast the Dickens classic A Christmas Carol.

Here on News blog we'll have the latest instalment from the Institute for Public Policy Research's ***climate change*** expert Simon Retallack from the UN climate talks in Montreal, and political correspondent Matthew Tempest will be finding out what the bloggers are saying about David Cameron.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** PRIME MINISTERS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); BLOGS & MESSAGE BOARDS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); RESEARCH INSTITUTES (71%); CLIMATOLOGY (71%); MURDER (70%); UNITED NATIONS (66%)

**Industry:** PODCASTING (90%); BLOGS & MESSAGE BOARDS (90%)

**Person:** DAVID CAMERON (89%); SADDAM HUSSEIN (73%); TONY BLAIR (58%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (91%)

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Work: Flat earth society: New technology heralds as great a shift in the way we live and work as the invention of the printing press, prizewinning author Thomas Friedman tells John Crace***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4HPS-V450-00VR-R4WP-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

December 3, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Work Pages, Pg. 5

**Length:** 1235 words

**Byline:** John Crace

**Body**

A pixellated figure appears on screen. You can't see the colour of the eyes, though I'm later told they are a "striking brown", but the trademark 70s droopy moustache tells me that the person sitting 3,000 miles away in the offices of Goldman Sachs in Washington DC is indeed the three times Pulitzer prize-winner and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman.

"Hi, John," he smiles. "This is a first for me. Good to see you there in London."

Interviewing someone by video conferencing is certainly a first for me, but it's a surprise that Friedman - as one of the leading commentators on new technology and the global market - isn't already a dab hand. Still, it's nice to know he's continuing to learn on the job.

"You'd better believe it," he says. "When I started writing The World is Flat back in March last year, no one had ever heard of podcasting. Last month, I discovered the book was the number one podcast on Apple iTunes - outselling Elton John and Coldplay."

Friedman isn't shy about his success. But then he's got a lot to boast about. Three previous books all sold more than 200,000 copies in hardback, but The World is Flat has turned them into also-rans. Current sales are in the region of 1.4m and rising, and it has just picked up the award for the Financial Times business book of the year.

Friedman's stock in trade is to make the complex accessible without dumbing down, but he is under no illusions about the unexpected scale of his success. "It would be nice to think it was my mellifluous prose," he says, "but I know it isn't. I just happened to have tapped into the anxiety of the age. In previous generations, there was always an assumption that the children would be better off than their parents. All that has changed: people now worry they will be worse off than their parents and that their children will be worse off than them.

"Journalists are often quick to talk about turning points in history, but sometimes that is the reality. I believe that new technology will have as dramatic an effect on the course of history as Gutenberg's invention of the printing press."

Globalised world

The World is Flat is a combination of anecdote and commentary on the history of the globalised world in the 21st century. Its starting point is the development of the PC in the 1980s, the growth of the internet and fibre-optic cabling in the 1990s and the more recent silent revolution of software compatibility, which, Friedman argues, has created the platform for a flat world where the old vertical value creation models have been replaced by horizontal models - the old model whereby ideas started at the top and were then funnelled down to make them happen has been upended. In short, the old hierarchies are on the way out.

"Some jobs will remain the same," Friedman concedes. "Those at the very top, such as Michael Jordan or a consultant cardiologist, will be unaffected, as will those who provide localised services, such as dentists and refuse collectors. But there are a huge number of jobs that lie somewhere in the middle which are under threat.

"It's not just those traditional 'grunt' jobs, such as call centre workers, that are being outsourced. US tax returns are being prepared online by accountants in the far east and X-rays from US hospitals are being analysed by radiologists in Bangalore. Even Reuters gets its basic company results uploaded in India."

Flatness is a relative term. But if some people and some jobs are still more equal than others, it's hard to dispute that what the new technology has done is to create a platform that is equalising. Jobs are no longer restricted to locality: if someone in another country can do the same job as efficiently and cheaper than someone closer to company HQ, then that's where the work is headed. Inevitably this leads to one of the great ethical questions of globalisation: what happens to those in the west who wind up on the scrapheap?

Friedman takes a cautiously upbeat view. "We've seen manufacturing industries decline in the west," he points out, "and the labour force has gone on to find new work. As one industry dies, another grows. The US has three internet search companies turning over $ 1bn a year. And traditional businesses, such as accountancy, need to take advantage of the outsourcing of the grunt work and start concentrating on adding value by providing a more hands-on tax-planning service."

Critics argue he has spent too much time cosying up to CEOs, but Friedman is unapologetic. "These people are the ones who are shaping our world," he shrugs. "Who else would I speak to?" Even so, you can't help wondering whether those who are actually threatened with losing their way of life will be quite so sanguine and open to reinvention as the boss class hopes.

Here, you suspect, Friedman is on slightly dodgier ground than he might believe. As he is the first to acknowledge, technology may be morally neutral but the uses to which it can be put range from philanthropy to terrorism. What's more, the flattening effects of the platform mean it's now just as easy for the small player, such as al-Qaeda, to make a big impact on the world stage as it is for large multinationals to penetrate the minutiae of the individual's life. So governments and business need to tread carefully.

Good relations

Even so, Friedman retains his optimism. As long as countries have the right infrastructure of roads, airports and so on, a fair education system and a government that promotes good relations between business and workers, he believes all will be well. And just to make sure no one is taking any liberties, Friedman puts forward the notion of "compassionate flattism", whereby international NGOs such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank make sure all runs smoothly and that the workforce in developing countries is not exploited.

Again, Friedman's glass appears to be wilfully half-full. The US has shown no signs of listening to other countries or NGOs on issues of ***climate change***, and almost every western country has appeared happy to ignore human rights abuses in order to forge better trading relations with China. So what hope for the flatter economy?

"Of course we don't want to sacrifice our values," Friedman says. "But there is value in bringing China into the global marketplace. And there are encouraging signs that China is becoming more pluralistic and democratic year on year."

As ever, history will be judged by the winners and the verdict is still out on the outcomes of globalisation. And Friedman is not in the business of making forecasts. "Things are changing so fast that I just don't have the confidence or chutzpah to predict what the world will look like in five or 10 years' time. All I know is that it has changed so much - particularly the spread of free software - in the past 18 months that I have started work on the 2.0 version of The World is Flat."

And after that? "What I would really like to do is create a free online version 3.0 where everyone can contribute to and update the book." Sounds like his publishers may feel the cold winds of the changing workplace sooner rather than later.

The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman is published by Allen Lane at £20. To order a copy for £18 with free UK p&p go to guardian.co.uk/bookshop or call 0870 836 0875.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** WRITERS (89%); CHILDREN (84%); JOURNALISM (76%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (76%); GLOBALIZATION (74%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (69%); FIBER OPTICS (60%)

**Company:** FINANCIAL TIMES GROUP  (66%);  GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC  (58%);  APPLE INC  (55%); FINANCIAL TIMES GROUP  (66%);  GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC  (58%);  APPLE INC  (55%)

**Ticker:** GS (NYSE)  (58%);  AAPL (NASDAQ)  (55%); GS (NYSE)  (58%);  AAPL (NASDAQ)  (55%)

**Industry:** WRITERS (89%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (76%); PODCASTING (72%); INTERNET & WWW (69%); COMPUTER SOFTWARE (60%); FIBER OPTICS (60%)

**Person:** THOMAS L FRIEDMAN (79%); ELTON JOHN (70%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (57%); DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, USA (73%); UNITED STATES (72%)

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2005

**End of Document**

[***World briefing: A new credo for the hyperpower***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GT0-DC30-00VR-R3Y5-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

August 4, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 716 words

**Byline:** Simon Tisdall

**Body**

To improve its influence and image in the world, the US should refrain from building new nuclear weapons, scrap the Bush doctrine of preventive war and regime change, break its ***climate-changing*** oil habit, and recommit to international rule-making organisations such as the UN.

The musings of a leftwing think-tank? A liberal pipedream? Not a bit of it. These proposals come from Richard Haass, a leading light in the US foreign policy establishment and former senior official in the Clinton and Bush administrations.

As strategists ponder America's future direction amid continuing international divisions over Iraq, the "war on terror", Kyoto, trade and a host of other issues, Mr Haass' new "integration doctrine" is being taken seriously. Henry Kissinger, hardly a radical, is a fan.

This master plan for deepened international collaboration, a global version of the 19th century Concert of Europe, is set out in Mr Haass's latest book, The Opportunity: America's Moment to Alter History's Course.

As his title implies, Mr Haass does not believe the US should surrender its post-1945 leading role. But he suggests its national interests will be best served if hubristic ideas about American exceptionalism, indispensability and unilateralism are tempered by more pragmatic, mutually beneficial cooperation with emerging powers such as Europe and China.

Pointing to perhaps the biggest lesson of the neo-conservative era, Mr Haass says hyperpower has limits - and they have been reached.

"The US does not need the world's permission to act, but it does need the world's support to succeed," he writes. "No single country, no matter how powerful, can contend successfully on its own with trans-national challenges."

Iraq, for example, had become a "magnet and a school for terrorists". The US should push for a new set of international "rules of the road" before the opportunity afforded by post-Cold War American primacy is squandered, he argues. But "significant changes" to current US policies are a prerequisite.

Controversially, he urges President Bush to cool his evangelical enthusiasm for spreading democracy. Affording primacy to that aim is "neither desirable nor practical", Mr Haass says, given the many more pressing threats, such as proliferation, terrorism and protectionism, which require an improved collective response.

Mr Haass's attempt to substitute 21st century integration for 20th century containment is only one contribution to an intensifying debate reassessing America's policies.

In a devastating essay in the New York Review of Books on post-invasion failures in Iraq, Peter Galbraith, a former US ambassador, condemns the American "arrogance and ignorance" that he says could produce the ultimate own goal: Kurdish secession and a theocratic Shia state in thrall to Iran.

He says the US must accept that "while the Sunni Arab insurgents cannot win, neither can they be defeated" and that the attempt to agree a lasting uni-state constitution is doomed. Only a "drastic change of strategy" involving a loose confederal structure of three self-governing communities can save Iraq from disintegration, he claims.

The wider policy debate has been lent urgency by next month's UN summit at which long-term decisions on rules governing military intervention, poverty reduction and UN reform are contemplated. But it is largely occurring without the administration's participation.

A legacy-minded Mr Bush appears more concerned at present with getting out of Iraq and Afghanistan, and achieving some legislative and judicial successes at home, than with crafting new global approaches.

Brian Urquhart, a former UN undersecretary-general, has some sobering words for would-be architects of a more enlightened world order. Reviewing Mr Haass's book, he highlights the formidable domestic political obstacles to change, particularly US corporate lobbying power. And he questions the quality of contemporary American leadership.

Disturbingly for America's policy potentates, Mr Urquhart also wonders whether a "rapidly changing world (will) be willing to embrace US leadership as readily as it has done in the past". Even after all Mr Bush has done, the possibility of rejection hardly seems to have occurred to them.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** LIBERALISM (90%); FOREIGN POLICY (89%); TERRORISM (89%); WAR ON TERROR (78%); CHRISTIANS & CHRISTIANITY (78%); COLD WAR (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (77%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); CONSERVATISM (76%); PROTECTIONISM (76%); SEPARATISM & SECESSION (75%); NUCLEAR WEAPONS (73%); UNITED NATIONS (73%); REBELLIONS & INSURGENCIES (73%); DRIVING & TRAFFIC LAWS (72%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (72%); MUSLIMS & ISLAM (70%); RELIGION (65%); DEMOCRACIES (60%); MILITARY WEAPONS (58%)

**Company:** UNITED NATIONS   (58%);  UNITED NATIONS  (58%)

**Organization:** UNITED NATIONS   (58%);  UNITED NATIONS  (58%); UNITED NATIONS   (58%);  UNITED NATIONS  (58%)

**Industry:** NUCLEAR WEAPONS (73%); DRIVING & TRAFFIC LAWS (72%); MILITARY WEAPONS (58%)

**Person:** GEORGE W BUSH (73%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (99%); IRAQ (93%); EUROPE (92%); IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF (79%); CHINA (79%)

**Load-Date:** August 4, 2005

**End of Document**

[***World briefing: Take your partners for the European waltz***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4FJ7-02D0-00VR-R25P-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

February 22, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

**Length:** 665 words

**Byline:** Simon Tisdall

**Body**

George Bush makes an unlikely Mr Darcy. But Jane Austen might have recognised her leading man in the US president's pulse-quickening sashay through the assembly rooms of Brussels.

English country dancing was Ms Austen's great delight. Today's hop has a more international flavour, with the leaders of more than 30 EU and Nato countries taking to the floor in their best rig.

Like Mr Darcy, Mr Bush has proved a reluctant partner in the past. Now he is making an effort, as yesterday's concilia-tory speech was intended to show. All are hoping to catch his eye and mark his card. Contentious issues will be played down for fear of spoiling the mood music. But whether Euro-Atlantic summit symbolism can be translated into substance is another question.

Jacques Chirac gained an early advantage, securing a tete-a-tete with Mr Bush. The French president has more catching up to do than most after the rupture over Iraq. France has been manoeuvring subtly, cooperating with the US on Syria and Lebanon, stressing its contribution to the "war on terror" in Afghanistan, and hosting a Nato meeting in Nice.

Defence minister Michele Alliot-Marie said recently that France was "ready to play a more active part in Iraq". But Mr Chirac has not abandoned his concept of a multipolar as opposed to a US-led, unipolar world. He still believes Mr Bush has much to learn from French experience.

France affords top priority to Palestine. The crunch will come after Israel's Gaza withdrawal this summer. Like other Europeans, Mr Chirac wants Washington to use its unmatched leverage to induce Israel to agree a just, workable and lasting settlement. So far Mr Bush has largely focused on what the Palestinians must do.

Meanwhile, the French contribution in Iraq will be limited to external, indirect support. Deft French footwork provides a contrast with German clog dancing. Chancellor Gerhard Schroder trod on American toes last week by urging the US to recognise the EU, not Nato, as the primary forum for transatlantic discussions.

"I look forward to talking to him about exactly what he meant by that," Mr Bush said.

German opposition leaders such as Wolfgang Schauble say Mr Schroder's every step is choreographed by domestic opinion, which remains fiercely anti-Bush. But a British minister suggested the chancellor could be trying to assert Berlin's post-Iraq leadership in the EU at French expense, championing in particular the integrated EU military policy that Washington so distrusts.

The US places high value on Nato because it is an organisation it can ultimately control. The EU on the other hand is not. Like Britain and France, Mr Schroder strongly backs the EU-led diplomatic effort to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions. But Mr Bush refuses to make a foursome.

This has led some European diplomats to conclude that the US aim is regime change in Tehran, even if Mr Bush no longer uses the phrase.

"Iran could shift entirely to windmills and solar panels and Washington would still not be satisfied," one official said.

In this context, Europeans sourly note the Bush administration's continuing development of its own nuclear weapons capability.

Mr Bush's "common agenda" of shared visions and values, punchily articulated yesterday, flattered EU sensibilities.

His words did not dispel continuing practical and ideological disagreements over arms sales to China, African debt relief, a role for the international criminal court in Sudan, or ***climate change***.

Yet his stated belief in a "strong Europe" was encouraging for a continent that often feels the opposite when dealing with its dominant partner, America.

This will only encourage more Brussels dance floor nods and winks, more political ducking and weaving, and the meaningful sighs and coquettish glances relished by Jane Austen.

But after the ball, many differences will remain. As Elizabeth Bennett knew, it takes more than a twirl to build a lasting relationship.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** FRENCH PRESIDENTS (90%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); CHOREOGRAPHY (77%); DANCE (77%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (76%); WAR ON TERROR (73%); DEFENSE & MILITARY POLICY (71%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (66%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (50%)

**Company:** NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION  (73%)

**Organization:** NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION  (73%); NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION  (73%)

**Industry:** DEFENSE & MILITARY POLICY (71%)

**Person:** GEORGE W BUSH (79%); JACQUES CHIRAC (78%); GERHARD SCHRODER (64%); MICHELE ALLIOT-MARIE (52%); WOLFGANG SCHAEUBLE (50%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (79%); UNITED STATES (95%); FRANCE (94%); IRAQ (94%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (94%); STATE OF PALESTINE (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); ISRAEL (92%); GERMANY (92%); EUROPE (92%); LEBANON (79%); IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF (79%); SYRIA (79%); AFGHANISTAN (79%); BELGIUM (73%)

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2005

**End of Document**

[***World's biggest wind farm plan 'threatens seabirds'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GBV-9P20-TX0B-N27G-00000-00&context=)

Guardian.com

June 8, 2005

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**Length:** 348 words

**Highlight:** A colony of internationally protected seabirds is threatened by plans to place the world's biggest wind farm in the Thames estuary, conservationists warned today.

**Body**

A colony of internationally protected seabirds is threatened by plans to place the world's biggest wind farm in the Thames estuary, conservationists warned today.

A planning application was submitted yesterday for the £1.5bn scheme, which would involve constructing 270 turbines 12 miles off the Kent and Essex coasts.

The site for the scheme is a 150 sq mile sandbank that is the winter feeding area for almost 8,000 red throated divers. The bird is protected because of its declining numbers.

A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said: "We have concerns about the proposal, because of the internationally important population of red throated divers on and around the wind farm site."

But he praised the developers of the scheme, London Array Ltd, for consulting the RSPB about the plans and already agreeing to reduce the area covered by the turbines.

The Port of London Authority is also worried about the scheme because of its potential hazard to shipping.

London Array claims that the new scheme could supply power to a quarter of London's homes. It would also be capable of meeting 10% of the government's 2010 renewable energy target.

If planning permission is granted the first turbines would go up in 2008, with the whole scheme due to be completed by 2011. But a planning inquiry is likely before approval is given.

Despite the concerns of the RSPB, environmental campaigners welcomed the plan.

Tony Juniper, the director of Friends of the Earth, said: "***Climate change*** is the biggest threat the planet faces. Projects like the London Array wind farm are exactly the sort of development that is urgently required to tackle the problem, and help meet UK government targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions."

He added: "Renewable energy has a huge potential, and this development would be a significant move toward a cleaner and greener future."

The planning application will be considered by two government departments, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Trade and Industry, as well as Swale and Canterbury councils.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** CONSERVATION (90%); BIRDS (90%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (89%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (72%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (69%); EMISSIONS (67%); GREENHOUSE GASES (63%); COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS (61%)

**Organization:** ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (57%); FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (54%)

**Industry:** WIND ENERGY (91%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (89%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (78%); EMISSIONS (67%); PORT AUTHORITIES (53%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (76%)

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2005

**End of Document**

[***Worried about airline pollution? Sell your car, says Ryanair boss***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4GFV-C940-00VR-R162-00000-00&context=)

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

June 22, 2005

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 2

**Length:** 370 words

**Byline:** Andrew Clark, Transport correspondent

**Body**

The thorny issue of ***climate change*** has left most airlines bending over backwards to sound green. But Europe's largest low-cost carrier, Ryanair, has dismissed its environmentally nervous rivals as "lemmings".

Ryanair's chief executive, Michael O'Leary, has refused to support an industry-wide effort to limit carbon dioxide emissions. Asked yesterday what he would say to travellers worried about the environment, he replied: "I'd say, sell your car and walk."

This week, airlines including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, easyJet, Flybe and First Choice, formed a sustainable aviation group aimed at cracking down on pollution, noise and harmful emissions.

Mr O'Leary said Ryanair would not be joining: "A lot of members of the sustainable aviation group won't be around in 10 years' time -that'll be their main contribution to sustainable aviation."

He described the coalition as an example of "high-fare airlines getting together to pursue policies blocking competition," adding: "The sustainable aviation group, God help us, is another bunch of lemmings shuffling towards a cliff edge."

Aircraft account for about 5% of carbon dioxide emissions and air travel is forecast to double within 25 years. There are fears that cheap flights could hamper efforts to fulfil Britain's commitments agreed at the Kyoto summit.

The aviation industry favours an emissions trading scheme, allowing airlines to buy and sell carbon dioxide allocations. But Mr O'Leary said such a scheme amounted to a plot by airlines such as British Airways to punish rapidly growing rivals.

"British Airways won't be growing its existing emission levels because it's going nowhere - it's shrinking," he said. "We will be increasing our emissions over the next few years simply through growth in traffic."

Roger Wiltshire, director general of the British Air Transport Association, said: "They obviously don't want to engage in a debate over the environment, which is rather sad."

Environmentalists were less circumspect. Jeff Gazzard, of the GreenSkies Alliance, said: "Michael O'Leary is a recidivist, serial polluter and he should be arrested for crimes against the climate."

City notebook, page 22

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** EMISSIONS (90%); GREENHOUSE GASES (89%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (89%); AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); ***CLIMATE CHANGE*** (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); AVIATION SECTOR PERFORMANCE (78%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (76%); EMISSIONS CREDITS (76%); ARRESTS (75%); AEROSPACE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (75%); EXECUTIVES (72%)

**Company:** RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC  (92%);  BRITISH AIRWAYS PLC  (92%);  VIRGIN ATLANTIC AIRWAYS LTD  (90%); RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC  (92%);  BRITISH AIRWAYS PLC  (92%);  VIRGIN ATLANTIC AIRWAYS LTD  (90%)

**Ticker:** RYAAY (NASDAQ)  (92%);  RYA (LSE)  (92%); RYAAY (NASDAQ)  (92%);  RYA (LSE)  (92%)

**Industry:** AIRLINES (92%); EMISSIONS (90%); AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (78%); AVIATION SECTOR PERFORMANCE (78%); EMISSIONS CREDITS (76%); AEROSPACE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (75%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (88%); EUROPE (79%)

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2005

**End of Document**