

## **AFGHANISTAN**

The English Radical Alliance does not support any war which has no bearing on England or the people of England. The war in Afghanistan is such a war, and although we support our forces we do not support this American initiated conflict. What we require is a strategy of withdrawal whereby the efforts of our brave service personnel have not been wasted and where they can return home with honour.

In Afghanistan itself, ERA questions why, when there is a world shortage of morphine, are Western forces in Afghanistan say they are destroying opium poppy crops? Why are they destroying something so valuable?

ERA believes it make more sense to win the hearts and minds of the local tribesmen by BUYING their poppies off them for a fair price, and converting them into morphine. This would be a humanitarian move on two fronts, helping poor farmers AND providing the world's sick with more pain relief. This would be preferential to letting the Taliban step in and pay growers a pittance, to convert poppies into heroin and help fund their guerrilla war against the West.

## **AGRICULTURE**

England's traditional agricultural industry is suffering. We now have a two tier, divided farming industry with large heavily subsidised industrial farms and smaller and much poorer traditional family run farms. The practice of industrialised, intensive farming, which the EU support and encourage, has a damaging effect both on the environment and local communities. Where once it was the responsibility of our farmers to provide food for the nation, now it seems the priority is to provide crops and produce for the giant European food mountains. This is largely because we have a Ministry of Agriculture and EU departments that are not servants of the English farmer, but of agro-chemical multinational companies and large concerns. These companies and concerns have little regard for the English people, the English farmer, animal welfare or the rural environment. Their sole concern is profit, and they have been aided and abetted in their plans by successive British governments and European bureaucrats.

Agriculture plays a large part in our environment. The countryside has almost certainly paid a price for the continued and uncontrolled use of chemicals. At the same time there has been much talk of the environment and food miles, yet still little is done to reduce the way livestock and agricultural produce is transported to and fro across the country. We also continue with the insane practice of importing many items of food that we produce ourselves here in England.

We have seen a number of food scares. These have included salmonella, BSE, foot and mouth and avian flu. In the face of this successive governments have failed to act with confidence and with measures to support the farmer in their time of need. This once again demonstrates that British governments and politicians of the main parties have very little understanding of the farming industry.

Finally we have the prospect of GM food looming on the horizon and the potential damage these may cause upon our fragile eco-system. The whole idea of introducing genetically modified food is to give even larger profits to a few multinational corporations. It will not help the traditional farmer on a family

managed farm and it definitely will not have any benefit to the consumer. Yet despite mutterings of opposition from the main parties, their support for industrialised farming will one day see GM crops imposed upon us.

In a new, radical England the future of our agriculture industry lies outside the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy. Only by withdrawing from the EU and Common Agricultural Policy can the farmers of England, with the support of an English government, really be valued and decide their own destiny. The English Radical Alliance would free the farmers of England from the EU dictatorship which sees many in shackles and unable to tend the land how they know best. In a great many instances local and regional policies need to be implemented in agriculture, as England is a diverse country.

We would reverse the trend towards large industrialised farms that supply the various food mountains of the EU. There would be no two-tiered farming industry. We would return to the ideals that make the priorities of agriculture to feed the nation and be a major part of the rural communities of England. As the English Radical Alliance emphasises greater value upon our agricultural industry and favours freedom from EU legislation, we would introduce policies to ensure all farmers receive a decent return for their efforts. This can only be achieved by working in partnership with farmers in order to recognise areas of difficulty.

The English Radical Alliance would support organic farming and farmers in the transition period. We would support the farming of 'alternative crops' for industrial uses where there is no prospect of damage to the environment and eco-system.

The English Radical Alliance favours a return to smaller less industrialised farming. To cope with the increase in labour required for such farming, we would give greater emphasis to agriculture as a career choice and make it easier for agriculture to attract students for seasonal farm work such as harvesting.

By encouraging smaller scale and mixed farming we would provide far greater flexibility within agriculture.

The English Radical Alliance would invest in agricultural research to make England a world leader in pioneering growing techniques and offer a future for our agricultural industry. Likewise our agricultural training courses would allow students and established farmers to learn of new advancements and farming methods.

The English Radical Alliance favours an economic protectionist policy. Imported items that we produce a sufficient quantity of ourselves, including foods, would face a heavier import duty, thus making our English produce more economically attractive. We would introduce 'Country of Origin' labelling and a marketing scheme to take advantage of England's high quality reputation.

We believe in keeping the food supply as local as possible and through local agricultural networks aim to bring to an end the unnecessary transporting of food and livestock across the country. As part of this each network would supply information to a national stock register so that our home and export markets abroad can be maintained.

Our policy on Countryside Management would ensure local people actually manage their local environment. This would mean co-ordinated action where necessary in outbreaks of disease or dealing humanely and effectively with specific pest problems without disturbing the balance of nature.

There would be no place for Genetically Modified (GM) crops in a new, radical England. There are numerous environmental concerns involved with GM crops, they would undermine the reputation of English farming and introduce a product consumers don't want.

In a new, radical England there would be improvements in animal welfare, with animal cruelty and neglect having no place in 21<sup>st</sup> century English agriculture. Where required we would seek improvements on how livestock are housed, reared and slaughtered. Funding would be provided to assist farmers with any necessary improvements. Forms of religious slaughter would not be exempt from our improved animal welfare regulations.

The English Radical Alliance agricultural policy is one of liberating our farmers from the shackles of the EU and Common Agricultural Policy, it is about building a new partnership between agriculture, government, local communities and the countryside and it is about a modern, forward thinking agricultural policy for 21<sup>st</sup> century England.

## **ALLOTMENTS & COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Allotments were once the bastion of cloth capped men who tended plots with regimented rows of vegetables. Now times have changed with women outnumbering men on many allotment sites, young families and even school children amongst plot holders.

Unfortunately however, allotment land is also prime land for development and acre upon acre has been lost to housing estates, road schemes etc, disappearing for ever beneath a layer of concrete, bricks and tarmac.

It has been demonstrated that smaller, labour intensive farms and small scale growing in places such as allotments and gardens produce far more per unit area than large, capital intensive farms. Therefore in a new, radical England we would bring land that is currently unproductive into agricultural use for small scale production. This could include neglected areas of parks, some derelict urban areas and even areas within certain hospital grounds, thus opening the currently restricted boundaries of agriculture. Some of the work involved in such projects could be carried out by existing and newly established community garden and allotment associations. At the same time we would aim to increase the number of allotment and community gardens available nationally, attaching at least one to each local area within a borough. In planning we need to ensure all new developments have allotment or community garden facilities available. We would make it easier for community garden and allotment associations to sell produce to the national food chain by actively removing clauses in their tenancy and lease agreements that prevents them from doing this.

Finally in a new, radical England it would be recognised the vital contribution of allotments to the community. Therefore unless there were exceptional circumstances such as land contamination or erosion, we would prevent any further allotment land from being lost to development and ensure allotments play their part in a new, radical England.

## **ANGLO SAXON CULTURE**

The English Radical Alliance supports promoting England's Anglo Saxon heritage and culture. For more details, see our HERITAGE & CULTURE policy.

## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

Whichever way you look at it, incidents of animal cruelty have increased over the years and in what is supposed to be a 'nation of animal lovers' this is totally unacceptable. As well as dramatically increasing penalties for all acts of animal cruelty, the English Radical Alliance would work with animal welfare organisations and businesses to introduce legislation to improve all aspects of animal welfare.

Vivisection is another area where we must explore other avenues. The English Radical Alliance believes believe no animal should be used for experimentation for non-medical research. In the case of medical research, animals should only be used if there is no other alternative, and animal welfare must come before the cost of any experimentation. The English Radical Alliance would provide sufficient funding and development facilities to enable the eventual phasing out of all animal experimentation.

All forms of ritual slaughter that involve suffering to animals would immediately be banned.

## **ASYLUM**

England has long been a sanctuary for those seeking to flee tyranny and we have continuously accepted asylum seekers from all over the globe. We share the concerns of the genuine asylum seeker and feel nobody should live under the fear and threat of persecution. But as we have already pointed out, England is an overcrowded country which is currently bending under the strain of its present population. Therefore we believe England has more than fulfilled its duty in accepting asylum seekers and now is the time to say 'The door is closed'.

England's stance on asylum would be an international one. Those fleeing tyranny and persecution must claim asylum in the nearest democratic country to them. We believe that there would be greater cultural similarities for the asylum seeker if relocating closer to their homeland, plus it would bring greater diplomatic pressure on the oppressive state from its near neighbours. To ensure we are able to impose our new law on asylum, England would have to withdraw from the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees.

Obviously for some, especially those that seek an Islamic England or an increase in Islamic influence, living in a new, radical England may prove unacceptable. The politically correct lawyers and politicians that defended their causes at the expense of ordinary decent people will have been swept away. In this case such people would be able to apply for assisted financial repatriation or emigration to a country more in keeping with their beliefs. This would be funded from the money saved on dealing with issues that were a direct result of immigration.

To reiterate, our aim is for all the people of England, from all backgrounds and origins to live in harmony. All can contribute to a new, radical England. But to achieve that harmony immigration must be stopped and the detrimental issues associated with it dealt with. Only once this has happened can we all look forward to a harmonious, new, radical England.

## **ARTS**

England has a magnitude of people talented in the arts, yet very often these people struggle to make ends meet, with many falling into the poverty trap. Yet everyone that practices enriches their lives as well as those that observe them. The English Radical Alliance would introduce a National Income Scheme which would provide the financial assistance necessary for artists to carry out their work without falling into the poverty trap.

Through capitalism the majority of the arts are governed by money interests, therefore they are often beyond the financial reach of large sections of the population. Many schools in poorer areas fail to recognise and encourage artistic talent in our young people. Yet it is these poorer areas that could gain the most from the arts which could contribute greatly to improving the community. The English Radical Alliance would break the elitist mould that currently enshrines the world of art, making it fully accessible for all.

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

Because of the selfish acts of people in the banking and finance sector, the lives of millions of ordinary people have been affected. Businesses have collapsed, people of been made unemployed with thousands losing their homes. All this contributes to a breakdown in society, with financial pressures on families and increased levels of crime. Meanwhile those that have caused this chaos remain comfortable, as like a parasite they have sapped enough blood to survive until an upturn in the market. They have no idea of the hardships ordinary working people face. At the same time the banks continue to pay large bonuses to their directors – at a time when numerous small businesses are going to the wall. This poses the question, who really runs the country, the banks or the government? It is a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

The English Radical Alliance believes businesses including the banks should work for the benefit of the country and not the other way round. We need to investigate a return to regional stock exchanges to break the monopoly of the City. Banks and building societies should be made more accountable by returning them to their localised roots, providing services to small businesses and communities and run by local boards, not multi-national directors who are paid bonuses to lose money abroad. Credit Unions would be encouraged as an alternative to banks and building societies, again run by local people and providing a valuable service to local communities. This would help eliminate loan sharks from preying on the most vulnerable.

## **BBC**

Many English nationalist parties would prefer the BBC to be rebranded into an English Broadcasting Corporation. This would be a very costly exercise and the English Radical Alliance opinion is that licence fee payers' money could be better spent. We would favour the Television Licence fee to be divided between the four nations, with the fee financing the BBC in each individual nation. Therefore English licence fee payers would only pay for programmes produced in England. We also favour greater accountability of the BBC. The people pay the licence fee and therefore should decide the direction the BBC should take in the production of programmes and how the news is reported.

## **BENEFITS**

Over the years the unemployment figure has fluctuated depending on the economic climate. Yet one hidden statistic amongst the unemployment figures is that of the so called professional unemployed – those who receive benefits but have no intention of finding a job or doing a day's honest work.

When you view the entire benefit system it is a maze. Yet it is a maze that those who have gained a living from exploiting it, seem to know every twist and turn. It makes a mockery of the system when people receive benefits to feed their alcohol or drug addiction whilst genuine cases barely have the funds to feed themselves. As we can see, the people that gain most from the current benefit system are those that seek to exploit it.

Some aspects of the benefit system, particularly in low paid areas, mean that accepting a job would mean people actually being financially worse off. This means for some it is not worthwhile even looking for a job. Obviously the sums of the present, over complicated and much exploited benefit system do not add up.

In a new, radical England the benefit system would be completely scrapped and one simple system implemented which cannot be exploited. Such a system would be a National Income Scheme.

The National Income Scheme would be offered to all citizens of England. Payment would provide enough money to clothe, feed, house and keep warm the individual, in other words the basic requirements. There would be separate rates for children, people over 60 and those with genuine disabilities and special needs. Each rate would be based on local financial requirements. There would be no additional funding to feed addictions. Anyone who has an addiction would have to receive treatment in specialist units.

The National Income Scheme would make it worthwhile people looking for work and accepting a job, as they would not lose a penny of the allowance. Therefore people would be better off working, be it full time or part time. It would create greater flexibility in the labour market and generate more money in the local and national economy.

The National Income Scheme would remove people from the poverty trap and create an environment for seeking employment. However in a new, radical England, just as there exists today, there will always be those that wish to exploit the system. This will be completely unacceptable, which is why alongside the National Income Scheme there would be a National Labour Scheme.

The aims of the National Labour Scheme are to ensure all those of working age contribute one way or another to the benefit of the community and the country as a whole, and to ensure the genuine long term unemployed do not fall into the trap of idleness or despair at not having a job. For the latter it will provide a sense of achievement and purpose.

The scheme will be available to all those that are unemployed and have been unemployed for six out of the last twelve months. Actual work on the National Labour Scheme will be based on the person's skills and interests and will be based within the local authority. Legislation will prevent people on the National Labour Scheme actually taking over someone's job or filling a vacancy, as actual work will solely be to compliment and add to the efficiency of the actual department.

Those refusing work on the National Labour Scheme without valid reason but still claimed National Income Scheme payments would actually be committing an offence and would therefore be arrested and have all benefits suspended.

## **CHARITIES**

In a new, radical England charities should be able to raise funding for their causes free from taxation. However it is also felt that charities can raise a great deal of money by reducing their own costs. Many charities are based in plush west end addresses. In these days of internet technology the need for a London address is a non essential luxury item. In a new, radical England these charities would be encouraged to relocate to areas where property and rents are cheaper.

## **CONSTITUTION FOR ENGLAND**

Many of England's laws are now drafted abroad by unelected bodies and politically correct politicians. Examples of this are the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights. Both these acts are open to abuse by the politically correct and are taken advantage of by people such as criminals, travellers and terrorists. The English Radical Alliance would repeal both the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights, and replace these with a written English constitution. This constitution would include our basic human rights and freedoms, but it would not be open to abuse by those that seek to take advantage of our country or those that seek to represent such people.

Through this English constitution many of our traditional customs and freedoms would be restored with our people free again to celebrate our English heritage.

## **CORNWALL**

Cornwall is a classic case where people are quite rightly proud of their Celtic roots. Yet through mismanagement of England by consecutive Labour and Tory governments Cornwall has suffered. Many people in Cornwall have called for their own assembly or regional government. Considering how through the Barnett Formula the Cornish have lost out to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in terms of funding and support we can sympathise with these calls. Ultimately we feel the future of Cornwall should be in the hands of its own people, and would therefore offer three options.

- 1] Remain as part of England (see our policies on local government), receive greater autonomy and the right to call the county council an assembly or any other title.
- 2] Opt for independence and remain within the EU. This would mean passport controls on the border with England.
- 3] Opt for independence, possibly forming a union with other independent Celtic nations. Again this would mean border controls with England.

## **COUNCIL TAX**

The English Radical Alliance believes the council tax, like the rates and the community charge / poll tax are unfair methods of raising revenue. Ultimately we believe all taxation should be based on the ability to pay. Our policy on local accountability and decentralisation would mean the residents of each local authority would have a choice of what method of local tax is collected in their area and have the right to decide how their local taxes are spent. For too long local authorities have squandered people's money on plush furnishings for council offices, redesigning logos, expensive consultants and politically correct and idiotic schemes which the majority of local residents don't want. As English Radicals we believe in greater local accountability and decision making, handing power to the people to decide the services they want and the method of collecting revenue to provide these services.

## **COUNTRYSIDE & RURAL AFFAIRS**

Our countryside and rural landscape has changed substantially over the last fifty years. Roads have ripped through our fields, much wildlife and fauna and flora is threatened or has been lost, public transport links have disappeared, towns and housing estates have sprung up, small family owned farms have vanished, crime has risen, village shops and businesses have closed and many village communities have become mere dormitories for people that work in towns.

Successive British governments have also ignored the countryside, brushing rural matters under the carpet in the hope they will go away. Sadly through such ignorance our countryside and our rural communities have suffered.

In a new, radical England our rural communities and precious environment will be protected. This can only be achieved by listening to local people and allowing greater decision making at local level. We need to revive a sense of community, enabling shops and local businesses to work together and provide a service. Transport links need restoring and a greater emphasis must be given to providing local employment.

Immigration, the breaking up of the family unit and social problems has all resulted in the extra pressure on the countryside to provide additional housing and roads. In a new, radical England measures will be taken to deal with each of these issues which will help resolve the decimation of our countryside.

The infrastructure, laws and facilities need to be provided to enable local shops and businesses to co-operate and work together in a distributist economic manner. The devolvement of power to local level, so each community can decide on the businesses and services it needs and then work to provide them will help achieve this and create employment opportunities. There also needs to be investment in rural communities to attract businesses that will employ local people.

Many rural communities have been quite vocal in claiming the damaging effect on their local economy due to the hunting ban. To counter the loss of income due to this there would be investment from government in promoting 'Drag Hunting' as a pastime for locals and as a tourist attraction and activity. At present this activity is reserved only for a few, yet it has potential to play a major role in rejuvenating rural areas that have suffered from the loss of hunting. Short term subsidies could be arranged for stables, farms and businesses to take full advantage of this.

A national and regional integrated transport policy would improve transport links with rural communities. Where possible rail links would be restored or stations re-opened. Post Bus services would also be encouraged to operate either as an additional service or where it is impossible for a regular service to operate.

In a new, radical England we feel it is necessary for local communities to have a Police presence. We would therefore seek to restore Police houses and stations to villages and rural communities along with local magistrate's courts.

Pest control and diseases is another issue whereby central government has very little knowledge. Whilst ensuring animal welfare legislation for livestock, wildlife and domestic pets is adhered to and necessary improvements made, The English Radical Alliance would introduce Countryside Patrol Officers directly linked to the Police force. It would be the duty of the Countryside Patrol Officers to know their local area, its people and the wildlife. Officers would work directly with farmers, land owners and conservation groups carrying out pest control and culling as required.

The removal of many politically correct and insane health and safety laws would once again allow villages and rural communities to stage fetes and events that have been forced to close because of expensive insurance costs.

In a new, radical England, the countryside would not be ignored. There would be investment, businesses and employment created and transport and policing restored. There would be local services run by local people and a sense of community rather than dormitory in many villages. England would have its green and pleasant land once more.

## DEFENCE

The blood of English soldiers is being spilled in wars that have no concern to the people of England. Not only is this morally wrong and can bring heartbreak to families who lose loved ones but it is also a waste of taxpayers money – money that could be spent here in England and looking after our wounded and disabled servicemen!

It is a great tragedy that so many lives of our servicemen have been lost in conflicts that do not have any bearing on the people of England. This makes a mockery of the word 'defence' as our military involvement is mainly to assist other countries in their conflicts? The Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, lives lost but not in the defence of England. Rather than being named the Ministry of Defence if we are to continue supplying our forces to fight other peoples wars, perhaps it should be renamed the Ministry of Mercenaries, as that is what successive governments have reduced our brave servicemen to.

Unfortunately we are tied to NATO and the USA, with even missiles based in our country we are not be permitted to fire without the consent of Washington! The majority of conflicts our forces have been involved in since the end of World War II have been a result of our foreign policy and international position, plus our alleged 'special relationship' with the USA and as part of NATO. A price paid for in blood spilled and taxpayer's money. The English Radical Alliance believes the cost of supplying an international mercenary force is too expensive in lives and financially. There needs to be a drastic shift in our defence policy and our foreign policy.

In a new, radical England, the English Radical Alliance believes our forces should be for the defence of England and not be used at the will of international bodies. We oppose the use of English forces to be used in all military ventures that have no concern to the people of England. The only way to achieve this is for England to follow the example of countries such as Ireland, Finland and Switzerland and not be part of NATO.

At present the people of England gain very little benefit from the current defence policy and international alliances, because as has been pointed out it is not really a defence policy but an international mercenary policy. This is no fault of our courageous servicemen, but of successive British governments who have very little respect for our forces and who wish to pull the wool over the eyes of the public. In the so called 'War against Terror' it has come to light the complete inadequacies of equipment supplied to our troops. Yet our troops have suffered such inadequacies for decades, which clearly demonstrate the lack of respect British governments have for our forces, their families and their loved ones. What is the logic of spending billions on nuclear warheads that are impractical to use when

we can not even supply our troops with the means of stopping bullets and roadside bombs?

We really do have to look at what we require from our armed forces, and being at the beck and call of the USA and NATO is not a necessary requirement. England does not need an international mercenary force; it needs a Home Defence Force, one to protect our nation and our waters. It does not need a navy that constantly patrols the Persian Gulf but a coastal patrol fleet to assist our fight against drug, gun and people smuggling as well as protecting the livelihoods of our fishermen.

We require armed forces fully equipped and strong enough to repel any attack, and powerful enough to deter anyone from ever considering attacking us. A change in our international policy from international interference and being at the beck and call of NATO and the USA, to one of concentrating on affairs within England, would immediately negate the necessity of items such as nuclear weapons and large expensive aircraft carriers. These are 'offensive' weapons for use in international conflicts and would be of little use in the defence of England. What is required is the latest conventional weaponry on sea, land and in the air (all manufactured in England), that will provide England with the capability of repelling any attack. That is the prime function of defence. Our forces would have the highest degree of training in the defence of our nation including guerrilla tactics as part of decentralised dispersed forces operating in small units. A degree of Police training should also be given enabling our armed forces to provide support for the forces of law and order when required.

In a new, radical England, the Territorial Army would be completely transformed and become a National Guard similar to the American model, albeit with certain specialist units still attached to the regular army. The presently underfunded Border Agency would become an integral part of our defence forces and receive the funding and equipment necessary to carry out its tasks.

The English Radical Alliance also favours restoring England's traditional county regiments. Over the years many of these regiments have been disbanded or merged. This is a tragedy as connections between the regiment, the county and its people are lost. In a new, radical England our traditional county regiments would be revived and based within their home counties, thus restoring the connection.

Our defence policy is exactly what it says, a defence policy. The English Radical Alliance does not see the necessity of foreign forces being based here in England or our forces becoming involved in pointless international conflicts. We will be delivering a new, radical England and defence policies relevant for our nation and not the international community. Enough lives have been lost, servicemen maimed and money spent on foreign campaigns, now is the time to put the defence of England and the people of England first!

## **DEMOCRACY & REFERENDA**

In every walk of life we are dictated to be it from the way our public transport system is run to the way our streets are policed even to the very television station and contents of programmes we watch. Yet we are told we live in a democracy, but in reality what we really live in is a rotating Labour-Tory

dictatorship with a mere splashing of democracy in order to keep the people happy. Why should the decision making process rest in the hands of just a handful of people?

In a new, radical England, real democracy would be offered to the people enabling everyday folk to actually vote on the public transport system they require, how their streets are policed and even the type of television channel they wish to watch. Democracy must touch every aspect of our lives allowing people to influence the decisions that affect them.

## **DIGITAL SWITCHOVER**

The English Radical Alliance opposes the selling off of the analogue television and radio signals. We believe it should be a matter of choice whether people upgrade to digital and not a matter of necessity. However the government and the main parties all support forcing millions to dispose of their old analogue radios and replace them with digital versions, probably produced outside of England in the lands of cheap labour. As English Radicals we believe the final choice in issues such as this must rest with the people and not the government.

## **ECONOMY**

History and experience tells us that the economy is one long roller coaster ride. One year it's up, there is low unemployment and businesses are doing well, and a few years later it's down and there are bankruptcies and mass unemployment. Whether Labour or Conservative have been in office, socialism or capitalism, both parties and both political ideologies have failed, and more often than not it is the ordinary man or woman in the street that has borne the brunt of things when the economy is on a downward slide.

England is not alone in journeying the economic roller coaster ride. Throughout the world capitalist and socialist governments have steered a course which suits those in power and forgets about the people. Whilst the people face financial hardship you will still find those in power in chauffeur driven limousines with vintage bottles of wine on the table.

Let's take a look at capitalism. The phrase 'boom and bust' is often used in economic terms to describe the peaks and troughs of the economy. This cycle happens time and time again, as for every 'boom' period when the economy is doing well there follows a 'bust' period when the economy enters recession. This is because capitalism is a completely uncontrolled; dog eat dog ideology where only the fittest survive. The economy becomes inflated like a balloon, and because capitalism is uncontrolled it keeps inflating until it bursts and the economy goes into decline or recession. Boom and bust is the engine room of capitalism and the ordinary people are the ones that fuel it. When the economy does go into decline capitalism shows little mercy for the ordinary person that finds his or herself an unemployment statistic.

Socialism is really no better than capitalism. History and experience has shown us that in practice

socialism does not really work and many socialist governments simply adopt a state capitalist way of running things. The whole principle of socialism to the underprivileged may seem a sound political ideology, but socialist economies are often built on centralisation, inefficiency and dragging the country into massive debt. It is sad to say that the underprivileged, those which socialism is meant to help are the ones that suffer the most from this political system. Examples of this can be found in hard-line socialist countries throughout the world and the deprivation that exists in those countries. Here in England, Labour governments and councils have failed to rid the country of poverty, with many Labour controlled areas having the worst areas of social deprivation. Rather than emancipating the ordinary man and woman socialism, just like capitalism, enslaves them.

The English Radical Alliance shuns both capitalism and socialism and favours a third alternative, one of distributism as its preferred political ideology. A new, radical England would be built on distributist economic principles which would not include 'boom and bust' or creating massive debts for the present population and future generations to pay.

England needs a broad based economy. Unfortunately Thatcher's Tory government of the 1980's began a policy of eradicating England's manufacturing industry, a policy which successive Labour and Tory governments seem to have continued. There needs to be a financial climate that can create business here in England and a taxation system that is favourable to products manufactured in England. Distributism, like capitalism, would create more businesses and offer the opportunity for more people to run their own business. Yet unlike capitalism, distributism in a new, radical England would not allow a dog eat dog attitude to be adopted, but would instead create an economy that supports and nurtures its businesses.

Part of this support and nurturing must come in the form of economic protectionism. Under capitalism and socialism England has been flooded with cheap and very often inferior foreign imports. There has been no effective legislation in the form of taxation or import control to restrict such products entering the country and so many of our own businesses have gone to the wall. It is worth remembering, the better our businesses perform, the better our economy and the better quality of life can be delivered to our people. To allow cheap and inferior products to enter the country on the present scale is literally poisoning the English economy and the bread of the working people. The English Radical Alliance would introduce economic protectionism with no VAT payable on goods manufactured in England. We are told by capitalists and socialists alike that economic protectionism would be bad for the country! This is because capitalists have investments in the global economy and not necessarily the economy of their home nation. Because of these global investments, capitalists earn vast profits by importing cheap and inferior products. They do not care if businesses go to the wall and people lose their jobs here in England as long as their bank balance increases. Socialists often dislike economic protectionism as they are ultimately extreme internationalists. They view importing cheap and inferior products as a way of supporting their 'brothers' and 'sisters' in countries across the world. They would rather do this than support workers here in England! This makes a mockery of socialists allegedly supporting the working man and woman. In a new, radical England the businesses of England would be protected as would the livelihoods of the people of England. How can that be bad for our country?

England as a major manufacturing nation has virtually been shut down by successive Tory and Labour governments and their support for globalisation. The English Radical Alliance would invest and provide funding for research and development into industries that will make England a world leader once again. A new, radical England would encourage co-operation between businesses in England, so each one supports the other.

Transportation of goods is another area where English haulage companies and drivers face difficulties due to unfair foreign competition. Foreign hauliers have free use of England's roads, whilst English drivers have to buy a tax disc to operate abroad. The English Radical Alliance would ensure all foreign lorries have to pay a road tax to operate in England, with their drivers having to take a short, simple, driving test before entering English roads. Any driver failing said test to be barred from leaving port, and the load to be collected by an English/British trained driver and right hand drive tractor unit.

The English Radical Alliance believes in breaking up large companies and enterprises so that they don't dominate the economy to the detriment of wider society. Regrettably we live in an upside down world where the tail is definitely wagging the dog and where the business practices of multinationals, large companies and enterprises is for the country to work for them, and not them work for the country.

Supermarkets and how they affect farmers and the fishing industry are prime examples of the detrimental effect large uncontrolled capitalism can have on wider society. For too long the supermarket giants have dominated retail trade to the detriment of smaller businesses. We feel it is time for this to change with smaller businesses, farmers, fishermen or even supermarket staff, given the opportunity to operate a business or a co-operative within the store. The supermarket would provide the premises, with smaller businesses or co-operatives selling the goods. This would be a true partnership between large and small business away from the cut throat economics of capitalism.

We would encourage a more localised and regionally based economy, and investigate a return to regional stock exchanges to break the monopoly of the City. Banks and building societies would be made more accountable by returning them to their localised roots, providing services to small businesses and communities and run by local boards, not multi-national directors who are paid bonuses to lose money abroad. Credit Unions would be encouraged as an alternative to banks and building societies, again run by local people and providing a valuable service to local communities. This would help eliminate loan sharks from preying on the most vulnerable.

Personal debt is an area of the economy often mentioned but never dealt with. The reason it is not dealt with is because the responsibility for encouraging spiralling personal debt rests in the hands of successive Labour and Tory governments and uncontrolled capitalism. The English Radical Alliance questions the morality of politicians who encourage debt as a good thing, as it inevitably leads to greater hardship for often the poorer members of society. We also question the sanity of a capitalist system that basically claims the only way out of a recession is to encourage more debts, resulting in more repossession, meaning more work for bailiffs and debt collectors! The truth is under the inhuman

capitalist system the people are expendable and by keeping them constantly in debt they are enslaved by those that seek to exploit them.

Through distributist practices, and more people becoming accessible to the means of financing a better future for themselves without relying on large and often unaffordable loans, the personal debt crisis can finally be dealt with. Distributism offers real power to the people to make a difference to their lives and in doing so their country. Both capitalism and socialism fail to offer this.

As has been previously mentioned, England has lost many of its industries either due to unfair foreign competition or selling of companies to foreign investors or asset strippers. The English Radical Alliance does not believe in this practice, a practice which both Labour and Conservative administrations have carried out. Where a private company is in difficulty and it is vital to the English economy, we believe the government should be able to purchase a 'golden share' to prevent it from folding or falling into foreign hands. By offering this 'golden share', we believe important English businesses and jobs can be saved. The golden share could be sold to an English businessman or workers co-operative at a later date as the company recovers.

In a new, radical England it would not be a given right that profit must come before people and society. Industry has a social responsibility to manage economic changes and put a human face to business practices? Businesses also have to be sustainable and have a minimum impact on the environment. At present the inhuman capitalist society we live in would never allow such practices, as profit is the only priority.

Another factor of the English economy is the relocating abroad of businesses to the 'lands of cheap labour'. Many of these companies have built strong links with their localities and could continue to thrive by remaining in England. However because of the capitalist system which allows companies to relocate abroad to obtain further profits, even if it causes unemployment and social hardships, this again means the ordinary working man and woman bear the cost. In a new, radical England measures would be introduced to prevent the exodus of companies to 'the lands of cheap labour'. If a company was to relocate it would have to pay its workers a lump sum equivalent to one years pay (on top of any redundancies). This would provide a financial cushion for the workforce and give them the available finance to start their own business if they wish. The sale of the companies premises would be offered first to the workforce at a substantially reduced rate, should they wish to take over and run the business as a co-operative.

This option of 'co-operatives' would also form part of new business regulations. If a business is to close, then it must be offered to the workforce to run as a co-operative. This again would prevent unemployment and provide a sense of value to the workforces who take over. Favourable financial conditions and training would be made available for newly established co-operatives in a bid to help them succeed.

Labour and Tory regimes have also lacked the courage to invest in our own people, preferring to hire

foreign contractors or import technology rather than developing our own. England has skilled tradesmen and technicians and realistically there is no need to use foreign contractors. Where there is a recognised skills shortage, rather than import labour or foreign contractors we need to train our own people and encourage the establishment of English businesses to provide the services necessary in our country. In a new, radical England there would be research and development on an unprecedented scale. We see this as an investment in the future success of our economy. Through this investment England can once again be a world leader in trade with the words 'Made in England' symbolising quality and efficiency.

The English Radical Alliance distributist economic vision would create jobs, businesses and protect the livelihoods of all the working people of England. It would create opportunity yet prevent exploitation. It offers a real alternative to the greed of capitalism and the hypocrisy of socialism.

## **EDUCATION**

England could once claim to have the finest standards of education in the world. However government interference, political correctness and in certain cases insufficient funding have all contributed to falling standards of education. Our education system is failing the nation, whilst the whole issue is being used as a political football, kicked around from one side to another in a bid to score a goal against the opposing team, or in this case an opposing political party. This demonstrates the complete lack of care for the people and future generations of England by our career politicians who care more for their wage packets and bonuses than the education of the nation. In a new, radical England the final whistle will be blown on this game of education football.

The English Radical Alliance would deliver an educational package that will allow people to learn in a suitable environment with all the facilities required. In a new, radical England, the right conditions will be made available for people to learn and a desire in people to actually want to learn.

To begin with let's look at education before somebody actually starts school. From the moment we are born we are learning and absorbing knowledge and experiences. In our early formative years we are solely under the influence of our parents. There are some good, very caring parents in this world and unfortunately there are some very bad parents. It is therefore important that all prospective parents learn parenting skills prior to starting a family. These would include basic child care, plus installing discipline, aspirations, good citizenship and family values. We would impose measures to ensure all prospective parents know the responsibility involved and when they become parents ensure these responsibilities are met.

In a great many schools, education standards are falling because of the number of pupils from foreign backgrounds, some who cannot even speak English. This holds back fluent English speaking pupils. In a new, radical England all pupils that are not fluent in the English language shall be removed to specialist classes. Here they will learn the basic curriculum but also the English language, English history and English culture. No pupil would be excused on ethnic or religious grounds.

Education of children between the ages of five and nine is extremely important. Over testing at this age can be counter productive as it installs fear of failure into children who should be left to get pleasure from education in their early years of schooling. During these early years it is important for both teaching staff and parents to install a desire to learn in our young people, something which they will take with them in further years. To help achieve this it is important for unruly children to be identified at an early age so disruption to the class can be avoided. Once identified such children can be segregated and lose certain in-school privileges in an attempt to reform them. Parents would be made to attend lessons in class with their unruly children. The worst and persistent offenders would need specialist attention.

The education system for ages between nine and fifteen seems to have lost track over the years, with more emphasis given to league tables and schools ticking the right boxes than actually educating and developing the citizens of tomorrow. We need to return to basics and provide subjects, guidance and discipline required for employment, further education and for pupils to become decent, honest citizens. To achieve the latter there is a requirement to install a sense of pride in ones nation and culture and a sense of values and morals. Therefore knowledge of local, regional and national history and culture is very important. Schools would not be discouraged from teaching other cultures and forging links with schools in foreign climes to educate pupils of cultural differences in the wider world. Indeed we recognise the importance of this in today's global community. However knowledge of our own nation and traditional regions must not be sacrificed to achieve this. To further pride in ones nation and ones locality we believe each school should fly three flags, one of the county, one of the traditional English region (where applicable) and one of England. An additional flag, that of St. Edmund (the original patron saint of England) would be flown on November 20<sup>th</sup>. All pupils should participate in raising and lowering the flags on a rotational basis.

As part of promoting English national identity, all faith schools that have no association with English culture would be abolished or all funding removed. All remaining faith schools that have no association with English culture will have to use English as the primary language.

All pupils must have the right environment to be able to learn in. This environment will not exist without discipline. We would introduce a three pronged measure to install discipline. One would be reward or consequences, whereby pupils can gain or lose privileges depending on behaviour. The second would be for parents or guardians to attend lessons with their children. This could cause embarrassment for the child, whilst at the same time even teach the parent or guardian knowledge and discipline. The third would be the option of using corporal punishment. Schools run under military discipline would be established for the most unruly pupils, where pupils that are permanently disruptive in everyday school would be removed to such an establishment. Anyone found responsible of bullying or inflicting pain on other pupils or animals would also be removed to such a school for a period of time. Persistent truants would be collected daily from their homes, face constant supervision and lose certain privileges.

We believe pupils, the school, parents, guardians or carers all must know their duties in items such as attendance, behaviour, parental responsibility and school responsibility. Each party must know exactly

what is expected of them as this will be an important factor in creating a new, radical England. Again, the English Radical Alliance would introduce measures to ensure all these duties are met.

The question of comprehensive versus grammar schools is another subject used as a political football match on the education fixture list. In reality, in some areas grammar schools work and in others they do not. In a radical, new England there would be a level playing field for education, with equal investment for all schools and a programme to reduce class numbers, remove trouble makers and improve teaching standards. We believe all pupils should have a grammar standard of education, and the only way to achieve this is by raising teaching standards, creating a better environment for learning and introducing real 'grammar wings' within all comprehensive schools. This would allow those who develop academically later than 11 to take maximum advantage. In addition to this partnership programmes between schools would be introduced, enabling pupils from various schools in an area, both grammar and comprehensive, to share lessons and educational facilities in order to bring the best out of each individual. What the main parties have forgotten is that each pupil is an individual, with their own strengths and weaknesses, and that a 'one cap fits all' policy does not always work. A school partnership programme will allow every pupil to achieve their maximum potential.

On the comprehensive versus grammar debate, we believe the most important people have never had a say on this issue, namely the parents. As detailed above, in a new, radical England there would be changes to the education system and through 'grammar wings' and school partnership programmes, allowing each pupil to work to their strengths using facilities from all local schools. This is the only way ALL children can gain a grammar school standard of education. However, part of the transformation in a new, radical England will be devolvement of greater powers to local authorities, the counties and the traditional regions of England. Therefore under the English Radical Alliance, central government shall only provide the framework for a modern education system. It shall be up to local authorities, in consultation with the local parents to decide whether to adopt a fully comprehensive education system or not.

For those that do not move on to university there is a requirement for re-introducing technical colleges. We have been told that there are skill shortages in England, and our technical colleges would help provide the tradesmen and women of tomorrow. Students attending these colleges may also be able to obtain hands on skills by learning their trade at buildings owned by local authorities and charitable organisations. It's so often stated that such buildings are in a bad state of repair because councils and other organisations cannot afford to maintain them. Students from college could actually compliment qualified tradesmen in carrying out such work and learn practical skills at the same time.

It is often said there can never be enough investment in our schools, and to counter this, the English Radical Alliance would promote partnerships between local businesses, schools and universities. For every pound a local business gives to a school or university by way of sponsorship, e.g for sports days or to sponsor their sports teams or buy sports equipment, they can deduct it from their tax bill. If a number of small businesses rather than one larger one decide they want to sponsor the event or supply equipment, then whatever they give is the amount they can claim against.

Alternatively if the businesses were to buy musical instruments, computers etc and pay for the up keep or repairs to these, then again they can off set the costs. However it would be agreed that no matter what the company buys it will be owned 100% by the school or university.

The sponsorship can take on many forms, an infants fun day right up to a county athletic meet or any sport(s), sailing, canoeing, hiking, archery, potholing etc event. Individual students could also be sponsored, but they would have to be at schools local to the businesses, i.e. Tesco's, Asda, BT, McDonald's etc will not be permitted to sponsor schools or students throughout England from their head offices. Businesses would have to be local or within the city or county, however there would be no limit to how many sponsorship deals a company can offer. Finally no matter how much a company gives, all would receive the same size acknowledgement on the sponsor's board.

In a new, radical England, as part of our aim to encourage people to learn, further education would be free at source, for all bone-fide citizens of England. This would include University education for those of working age. Contributions towards the cost of university education if necessary would be based on the future income of the graduate. Therefore those that become high earners contribute more over a period of time than those who earn considerably less. This would be a much fairer way of funding university education and prevent students leaving education with unaffordable debts.

A great deal of money is wasted in having university courses available that have no relevance to employment in England or anywhere else. These courses could be transferred to colleges of further education. In a new, radical England we would ensure all university courses are relevant to employment in England.

Top up fees for university students in England have turned students into education customers. The English Radical Alliance believes that you cannot put a price on a quality education, an education that does not enable students just to pass exams but an education that equips the student for the rest of their lives.

The step up from six form to university can be filled with trepidation. Students have to find their way around a new city, find accommodation and then the student is expected to find funding for their university education. Questions are posed. Are they eligible for government funding? If so how much?, How much will they have to find themselves and can they find that funding for every year they are in university?

If a financial contribution towards university education is necessary, the English Radical Alliance believes this should only happen when the student has graduated, found employment and based entirely on their ability to pay. Such a contribution could be made in one lump sum or by regular instalments and would be ring fenced so it solely contributes towards the university education costs of future students.

An example of how this contribution system could work is detailed below.

**Income            Contribution**

15-25K ..... 2 1/2K

25-50..... 5K

50-75K..... 7 1/2K

75-100..... 10K

**ENERGY**

England still has largely inefficient conventionally powered energy plants that are environmentally damaging. The English Radical Alliance would dramatically expand the use of gas de-sulphurisation units in our power stations. The use of fluidized bed combustion and a combined heat and power system would help combat pollution and increase the energy efficiency of coal and refused derived fuel power stations. Increased use and development of the latter would also reduce our dependency on foreign imports of gas.

It is inevitable that we will inherit nuclear energy. Therefore it is essential that we impose the strictest safety conditions on all nuclear power plants and waste when it is in transit and disposed of. However nuclear energy is not the cleanest fuel available and the mining of uranium necessary for these power plants is extremely environmentally damaging. We should therefore invest in research and development of all renewable and alternative forms of energy. Currently money spent on research and development in these fields is like a drop in the ocean, which is why we have to import such technology and many of the experts that go with it. The English Radical Alliance would make realistic investments in researching and developing such technology to make England the world leader in this field and self sufficient in energy requirements. Gradually as our renewable and totally self sufficient resources become available our nuclear power plants can be replaced.

Micro energy plants are another often ignored method of generating power. The English Radical Alliance would make the means of creating a micro energy plant more available and encourage greater use of these methods.

Finally the English Radical Alliance favours encouraging energy conservation. In our towns and cities, large office blocks are seen lit up overnight, even though nobody is in them. Legislation would be introduced to prevent this unnecessary wastage of electricity.

## ENGLISH INDEPENDENCE

We could go into a long, drawn out argument about English independence, however we feel it is better to just put it in plain and simple terms.

At present tax payers money in England subsidises the Scottish Parliament and the assemblies of Wales and Northern Ireland. In reality this means that citizens in the other home nations get a far better deal than we do in England. You could say the Scots, Welsh and Irish are having their cake and eating it!

The people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all voted for self government. That was their democratic wish and we should never stand in the way of democracy. But the reality of this situation is that the other home nations get self government, and the people of England foot the bill.

Some of you may remember the Tory election posters from 1979 stating '*Labour isn't working*' and depicting an endless queue from the job centre. A similar poster could be created today stating '*The UK isn't working*' and depict English taxpayers money flowing out of our pockets across the borders into Wales and Scotland and over the sea to Northern Ireland.

Therefore we can see that the present situation is completely unfair to the citizens of England, yet we cannot deny the Scots, Welsh and Irish their democratic wish.

So what are the solutions?

Some may say there should also be an English Parliament. Yet this would be so large and expensive it would be an extra burden on the taxpayers of England.

Some may say there should be a special sitting in at Westminster for English MP's to vote on English issues. Yet England is faced with so many problems that can never be resolved by this arrangement. It simply would never work!

Some say abolish the Scots Parliament and Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies. But that would be denying them their democratic wish and cause relentless resentment.

Then there is English independence, restoring England as a sovereign nation state once more. Allowing English issues to be debated by English MP's in our own Parliament and ending the huge subsidies that English taxpayers pay each year to the other home nations. Creating an independent English state that can care for its own citizens, offering a better deal for England and the people of England. It would allow job creation through investment in English industries and through relocating to England the DVLA, the Royal Mint, naval shipbuilding work and the defence industries.

However some may feel we should not break relations with the other home nations. For those people here is the good news - *we won't!*

We admire the people of all the other home nations, but at present as we have demonstrated we live in a very dis-United Kingdom.

What we are suggesting is a 'Council of the Isles' to replace the present disfunctioning and dis-United Kingdom. This would consist of the independent home nations, co-operating and working together on various issues. What it would not consist of is taking money from the taxpayers of England and placing it in the pockets of those in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A similar option to the 'Council of the Isles' alternative we are suggesting is something that is working very successfully elsewhere. Look at the Scandinavian countries, once part of a similar set up as the UK, and now successful independent countries that still work happily together as part of the Nordic Council. Who can say independence has failed them?

As you can see, an independent England as part of the Council of the Isles is the only fair and practical solution to what is happening in the present United Kingdom today.

## **ENGLISH REGIONS**

The English Radical Alliance opposes the nu-Labour and EU instigated idea of geographical English regions. This is just a way of destroying England as a nation, our traditions and our eventually our counties. We support decentralisation of power to a level that is practical and acceptable to people and that has traditional connections to England. England already has much loved counties and historic regions such as Wessex, Mercia and East Anglia. All our counties and regions have their own traditions and cultures. The EU would like to see these destroyed forever, the English Radical Alliance would not.

The English Radical Alliance supports the continued existence of all English counties, including reviving traditional counties such as Cumberland and Westmorland. In addition the English Radical Alliance recognises and would promote England's historical regions such as Wessex, Mercia and East Anglia. All would receive greater autonomy and recognition through the English Radical Alliance.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Regrettably none of the major parties have any real sense of involving the people in creating a greener environment. Instead of us all working together the major parties see the word environment and regard it as another reason to introduce more taxes. This does not involve the people, it simply alienates them, and demonstrates the lack of understanding our major parties have about the environment and the people.

The English Radical Alliance is committed to protecting our precious environment and fully playing our part in combating climate change. Through business, agriculture, energy, transport and housing we can create a cleaner and greener land which will help to contribute towards a cleaner and greener world.

We recognise the fine balance in nature and the impact mankind has had upon our fragile eco-system. For generations those that pollute our environment the most have got away with it, with the ordinary taxpayer having to pick up the bill. The English Radical Alliance would reverse this trend and introduce measures whereby the polluter and not the ordinary taxpayer pays the bulk for helping to return England to the green and pleasant land it once was. Therefore the most polluting industries would pay more.

Agriculture is another area which over the years has contributed to damaging the environment. Gradually things are changing, with more and more farmers and smallholders working with nature and not against it. The English Radical Alliance would introduce policies to help reduce food miles and make farming practices more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Once again research and development into new environmentally farming practices will assist this quest.

The English Radical Alliance would speed up the introduction of cleaner and greener energy with greater research and development into alternative and renewable methods. Conventional and refused derived fuelled power stations would be equipped with the latest pollution reducing and energy saving systems, which in the long term would reduce costs as well as benefitting the environment.

One issue most other parties ignore is the drift towards 'carnegeddon' or the grid locking of our roads. Car ownership is on the increase and it is easy to see that at some stage we are going to reach the critical point where there is simply no room for any more vehicles on our roads. Other parties intend to try and tax car drivers off the road, yet this will only have a detrimental effect on the poorest members of society.

There needs to be practical options to the car and a fully integrated transport system involving road, rail, water and air is the only suitable alternative. In addition to regular public transport, Post Bus services would also be encouraged either as an additional service or where it is impossible for a regular service to operate.

Housing and road building has had a detrimental effect upon the environment with the green belt surrounding England's towns and cities as well green field sites in the countryside continually under threat. Mass immigration and social issues have contributed to the need for more housing, and the English Radical Alliance has policies to deal with these issues by curbing immigration and promoting family values from the outset. Regarding the use of land, the English Radical Alliance would introduce policies where primarily derelict land and properties are used for any development. Legislation would also be introduced to prevent properties remaining empty and falling into dereliction. New properties would be eco-efficient with older properties improved to improve their efficiency. Large out of town superstores would be discouraged in favour of investment in local shops in our cities, towns and villages.

## EUROPEAN UNION

When the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined what was the European Economic Community, otherwise known as the 'Common Market', we were told it was just a trading block and that the economy and the people would benefit. There was no mention of constitutions, European presidents, anthems, flags or even the slightest thought of Turkey ever joining. Just a few decades on and there is a very different story to tell, as rules are imposed upon us, our sovereignty is lost and we drift further and further into a European superstate. Far from benefiting the economy and people of England, our continued membership of the EU has had a very damaging effect. If it has evolved in just a few decades from what was supposed to be a trading block to something that has its own flag, has a president, has an anthem and has basically a constitution imagine what future decades hold – the complete engulfment of England into the United States of Europe!

The EU is over-centralised and out of date. It is the product of big is best elitist culture which has little thought for the small businessman or traditional cultures of individual nations. As an organisation, the truth is it is impossible for the EU to function efficiently as there are far too many economic and cultural differences. The more the EU expands to take in other countries, the more these differences shall come to the surface. This will not affect those in power and the expanding number of unelected bureaucrats, but what it will affect is the ordinary people who shall have to bear the price. Already the cost to the people of England is being paid in jobs, taxes and social consequences due to the EU immigration policy.

Financially England pays more into the EU every year than it gets back. All those nice little signs you see saying 'Funded by the European Union' really means it has been funded by YOU the taxpayer. Membership of the EU is really like being mugged in the street, but the mugger giving you back enough money for your bus fare home. Therefore if we were to leave, the money tied up subsidising French farmers and paying for EU government wages and bureaucracy could be spent here in England, allowing better funding for even more projects. Why should we send money to an organisation whose accounts are a complete mess anyway?

When you consider England makes up over 80% of the UK population and wealth creation, it is easy to see that how an independent England outside the EU would work be even better off! Trade is another area where England would be financially better off out of the EU. We would be free of the restraints of working within the EU insular trading blocs, and free to trade with the rest of the world, including the Commonwealth. Some may argue that if we were to withdraw from the EU we would face a trade blockade from Europe. However the facts are that we import much more from the EU than we export to them, meaning a trade blockade would cause the EU to lose money. If we were to withdraw from the EU they will already have lost our funding, they could not afford to throw away our custom as well! In any case there is nothing made in the EU that can't be made in England or if absolutely necessary bought from elsewhere.

The English Radical Alliance would immediately withdraw England from the EU and work towards co-operation and facilitating trade between countries within Europe and across the world. Our territorial waters would be reclaimed and our people freed of EU regulations and red tape.

## **FAMILY VALUES**

The decline in family values and the traditional family unit has had a detrimental effect on society. This can clearly be witnessed by the increase in anti social behaviour, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancies and general lack of respect and discipline. We now have an underclass in society that is increasing in numbers that has absolutely no family values.

We recognise returning England to a nation whereby traditional family values are a way of life will not happen overnight. We have to deal with the politically correct system that has destroyed such values. We have to deal with the financial pressures which often drive families apart, and we have to introduce an education system that promotes traditional family values, morals and respect. This education system needs to be ongoing, through social workers and in dealing with offenders.

In simple terms just talking about family values will not work, we have to deal with all the issues which have seen their demise and create a society and conditions that can help them flourish.

## **FISHING**

England has long been established as a maritime nation. For centuries our fishermen have braved the seas to deliver their catch and help feed the nation. Now our existence as a maritime nation with one of the finest fishing fleets in the world is in jeopardy.

It is a given fact that England's traditional fishing grounds have been harvested to a dangerous level. It is also a given fact that continental fishing vessels plunder English waters and dredge our sea beds, damaging stocks and breeding grounds of many species.

Whilst this is taking place, England's own fishermen struggle to earn a living. Their days at sea are reduced, quotas are imposed upon them, and ton after ton of dead fish is thrown overboard because it cannot be landed due to size regulations. All this makes it almost impossible for many of our fishermen to earn a decent living. Crews are laid off, vessels are sold and the continental fishermen make off with our catch.

It is obvious something needs to be done, yet successive governments have failed to act. It is becoming increasingly clear that our fishermen are at the mercy of the EU and European vessels and urgent action is required if we are to address the situation.

In a new, radical England, England would be a proud maritime nation once again. England would be an independent nation whose fishermen are free to fish their waters without the threat of foreign vessels stealing their catch.

We need to take back the management of England's territorial waters. Until fish stocks recover sufficiently within these waters all continental vessels will be banned from our grounds.

Only after stocks have been replenished will England consider allowing continental vessels into our waters. Vessels from other nations within the British Isles will only be permitted to fish our waters providing a reciprocal arrangement exists with the English fishing fleet in their waters. There is also a

case for such decisions to be decided on a regional basis within England, so protecting the smaller, local based fishermen who are so often ignored.

We would abandon the practice of disposing dead fish at sea because it is the undersize or the wrong species. Greater research and development into fish behaviour and design of nets will enable our fishermen to become more efficient in the species of fish caught and the size. The initial introduction of new forms of nets would be subsidised.

Once these regulations are in place it will then be possible for calculations to be drawn regarding fish stocks and the impact of our own fleet and possibly those of our island neighbours on these stocks. It is expected that this will result in a much improved deal for our fishermen.

In the interests of the survival of our fishing industry and of fish species the English Radical Alliance would place responsibility for any necessary future restrictions on catch in the hands of new bodies consisting of regional marine conservationists and fishermen, people that know the species and know the waters. This body would constantly monitor the situation in our waters.

In order to assist in the replenishing of fish stocks, The English Radical Alliance would invest in a national hatchery scheme for certain species of fish and shellfish. The process and technology used in this could see the services of this hatchery sold to other nations and place England as a world leader in this field, thus creating employment opportunities.

We would ensure fish farming is a humane practice and bring an end to the cruelty that currently exists within this trade.

Our reclaimed territorial waters and replenished fish stock shall need protecting. This would be the job of the English navy in liaison with the coastguard and would require additional craft specifically for this task. Fishing vessels caught operating illegally will have their nets and catch confiscated, the vessel and crew impounded and a fine levied. If this fine is not paid within 30 days then the crew would be repatriated but the vessel would become the property of the English government.

The reciprocal fishing arrangements we may possibly have with other nations within the British Isles may see our navy requested to patrol the waters of these nations. This will only be carried out through a pre-arranged financial contribution.

Through implementing these policies the livelihoods of our fishermen would be saved, fish stocks replenished, jobs created and England's future as a maritime nation guaranteed.

## **FOREIGN POLICY**

A new, radical England would not interfere in foreign affairs where the interests of the English nation and its people are not threatened. The question of foreign aid is something else that needs addressing, especially when there is still poverty within England which needs to be dealt with. The English Radical Alliance would drastically reduce the billions of pounds in foreign aid England sends to poorer and developing countries, much of which is wasted and does not reach the people it is intended to help. Instead this money would be redirected into supporting projects and services here in England. For those that wish to continue supporting certain foreign aid projects, the English Radical Alliance would make it easier for charities to receive donations actually in the workplace, which would assist funding through additional people making direct debit payments.

## **GLOBALISM & GLOBALISATION**

Both globalism and globalisation are having a damaging effect upon England. Power is constantly being transferred from the people of England to global institutions and corporations. English companies relocate to the lands of cheap labour bringing unemployment to England and in doing so helping flood the company with cheap foreign imports. Unfortunately under capitalism, globalism and globalisation flourish.

The English Radical Alliance would steer England away from this global path of democratic and economic oblivion. Decisions need to be made by the people of England and not global corporations. We need businesses to survive and prosper in England, making products and creating employment here in England and not creating inferior products and low paid jobs in China and India. The English Radical Alliance would deliver policies to bring these global threats to England to an end.

## **HEALTH**

The English Radical Alliance believes in an education programme on preventive health care. Cycling and walking to school would be promoted. There would be better advice on healthy eating, plus alcohol and drug abuse. Companies and businesses would be encouraged to hold fitness exercises and sports competitions. Our environmental taxation system whereby the polluter pays, would be rolled out to cover health care, with tobacco companies and large fast food outlets paying an additional tax to fund health care and preventative health care measures.

## **HERITAGE & CULTURE**

Among the problems with society today is lack of identity and sense of place. ERA would correct this by placing the teaching of English history at the centre of the school's curriculum; by encouraging membership of local history and cultural societies through grants and free space in public buildings; and by holding annual festivals that celebrate English history and culture, such as St George's Day, Remembrance Day and Trafalgar Day, St. Edmunds Day, as well as local and traditional regional festivals and celebrations. We would also ensure that all new arrivals into this country received an English historical/cultural grounding and were fluent in the English language and basic English customs (age of consent, queuing properly!).

Political correctness and multiculturalism has meant numerous foreign cultures have been thrust upon the people of England. We have been told we must learn about these cultures and accept them. This has come at the expense of our own Anglo Saxon culture and heritage. The English Radical Alliance would give far greater emphasis on promoting Anglo Saxon culture and history in schools and in everyday life. The day of the traditional patron saint of England, St. Edmunds Day (20<sup>th</sup> November) would be recognised and the flying of the white dragon flag, as well as those of England's traditional regions

would be encouraged. Those that wish to establish Anglo Saxon communities, (similar to present religious communities) would not be opposed.

## **HOUSING**

Social issues, mass immigration and an economically transit population, have all contributed to the housing crisis England faces. The English Radical Alliance has policies to curb immigration, promote family values to help deal with social issues and encourage more locally based economies to deter the need for people to move in order to find employment.

Our next step in solving the housing crisis would be to deal with the thousands of empty or derelict properties or office blocks that are currently unused. Second homes are another issue that needs addressing, especially in areas where property prices are inflated because of this.

It is also important to look at the type of new housing that is required. We can no longer look at green field sites because of the environmental impact, and therefore we should be looking at derelict sites and brown field options. All new housing has to be affordable, eco-efficient with the majority available to first time buyers and young families. There are far too many executive and luxury homes being built for a small percentage of the population. New housing should be close to the basic local amenities with local communities themselves encouraged to run these amenities.

At present the only people that really gain from the housing market and property developers and speculators. The housing market is therefore just another example of uncontrolled capitalism. The prime objective of housing is to provide homes for people and not huge fortunes for developers and speculators. Therefore local authorities would be given the opportunity to cap property prices and create a section of the affordable housing market that would be for sale to local people only. Such a method could also operate in the rental sector.

There is a need for additional properties in the rented sector, with possibly local authorities buying back former council houses that come on to the market as well as where necessary building new ones. Rental on council properties would be lower for those that maintain their appearance to a decent standard. This would act as an incentive to create a better community and local environment. Where possible, maintenance would be carried out by people actually living in the area to further pride in their community.

## **IMMIGRATION**

What is called immigration can really be split into two categories, these being economic migration and asylum.

In England's past, it can justifiably be argued that migrants from abroad were necessary for economic reasons, helping to fill labour and skill shortages. It can also be argued that economic migrants have enabled the people of England to sample different cultures and customs and have in some ways actually contributed to English culture.

However today, England is a densely populated country with high figures of unemployment, with its own culture and customs eroded or under threat. Under these circumstances there is no sense in England continuing mass economic migration. It can now be argued that economic migration from abroad is bad for the economy, as it can contribute to the number of unemployed and be a burden on our health, police, NHS and social services. It can also be argued that as a result of the efforts of so called 'do gooders' and politically correct lawyers and politicians, economic migration is actually damaging England's traditional culture, customs and celebrations.

The so called 'do gooders' and politically correct politicians claim that opposing economic migration to England is racism. They claim a ban on economic migration will have a detrimental effect on migrant communities already living in England? This couldn't be further from the truth. The English Radical Alliance wishes all the people of England from all backgrounds and origins to live in harmony. However economic migration is causing great unrest across the country as people feel threatened at the extra competition for housing, jobs and welfare as well as the loss of their traditions. This can cause resentment in some communities, leading people to look for scapegoats and turn to extremism. If economic migration was stopped and the people of England were once again free to celebrate their traditional culture and customs without the shackles of political correctness, the threat would be removed and race relations would actually improve. This would deliver our desire for all the people of England to live in harmony.

Economic migration and illegal immigration unfortunately can be linked to crime in this country. People trafficking, drug running, prostitution and terrorism are all clearly identified as having connections with people migrating to England. Once again thanks to the efforts of politically correct politicians and lawyers England has become a soft touch for the likes of those that wish to exploit us and our system. Those that come here intent on illegal activity or as a result of such activity can easily disappear without trace. This also has a detrimental effect on all the people of England, from all backgrounds and from all origins. Stopping economic migration and increasing our Border Force would solve this problem.

The English Radical Alliance would immediately stop all economic migration to England. This ban would remain until we have sufficiently secured our borders, sorted out the current situation of false work permits and those that are here illegally. During this time we would deport all bogus asylum seekers and those deemed to be a threat to national security. As politicians have failed to recognise the effects mass economic migration has had on the population of England, we would hold a national debate and survey on the issue. The national debate and survey would look at the effects of economic migration in every locality, taking into account opinions and dealing with the problems that have occurred as a result it.

When our borders have been secured, the mess of continuous mass economic migration has been resolved and the results of the national debate immigration have been digested, England may consider allowing a limited number of economic migrants to enter the country. However this would only happen as a result of absolute economic necessity and be through a strict points and work permit system. To allay fears over threats to traditional culture we would insist applicants can fluently speak the English language, are of English culture or are willing to adapt to the English way of life.

## **LAW & ORDER**

None of us live in a safe country and crime is on the increase. It does not take a government statistic to show that England is not as safe as it was twenty or thirty or more years ago – we the people know it isn't! Unfortunately through politically correct lawyers and the judiciary, not to mention a police force tied down with paperwork, crime will continue to escalate.

When dealing with law and order, it is pointless simply having deterrents unless you actually deal with the causes of crime. For example many civil disturbances have been caused out of urgency and a feeling of people not being listened to rather than people just out to cause problems. Therefore in a new, radical England crime and the causes of crime really will be dealt with.

Our Education policy will encourage family and community cohesion, as will the greater sense of local power and ownership. This will help reduce many of the causes of crime. In addition, the increase in youth activities which we will encourage will also do away with many of the current problems.

To enhance this we shall include greater powers for the tenants of social housing estates to have a say in the running of their estates and in the housing of future tenants – removing the power of the local authority to dump problem families onto estates and destroy the sense of community there. Local Neighbourhood Watch schemes would be given more funding, but this would be accompanied by a physical presence on the estates by the local police force, with police houses there and regular street patrols by a more permanent unit who can become familiar with local tenants and their problems.

Our Police force needs to be able to carry out policing not paperwork and the English Radical Alliance would implement policies to bring this about. The role of the Crown Prosecution Service would be abolished with the Police deciding whether offenders appear in court or not.

We also need to reclaim our town and city centres from the 'violence and vomit' squads and this can be done by greater enforcement of current By-laws on public drunkenness and violent behaviour, and by better scrutiny of planning applications for bars, regulation of opening hours, and the levy of fees on bars and other drinking establishments. The latter would fund both a local police presence and that of medical and public transport facilities. Public misbehaviour must be met by absolute zero tolerance and the present 'taking over' of hospital A&E wards by gangs of drunks must be brought to an end.

We must bring in more severe punishments for street attacks so that there is a minimum sentence of five years hard labour for these and any other act of violence. Subsequent convictions should see an offender's sentence automatically doubled.

Laws for carrying firearms and offensive weapons need looking into, with stricter sentences for those with criminal records that flout these laws. In recent times there have been escalating attacks using air weapons, some of which have proved fatal. We would bring air weapons under the same category as ordinary firearms, with the same penalties for possession of such weapons without a licence and their misuse.

If necessary a major prison building programme will be undertaken, using the sites of current disused factories, schools and office buildings, possibly with the introduction of prison ships. Super-prisons, housing the violent repeat offenders would be built to offer both severe punishment but also training and rehabilitation.

The word 'respect' must mean something again, and it will be the basic duty of any future government of England to ensure that its citizens are free to enjoy their lives without the fear of crime and disorder, even if this means that the Defence Forces are used to patrol the streets, take on the organised gangs, and seal off areas that house significant numbers of people who refuse to obey the law. It will be the thug that lives in fear, not the decent citizen.

Any referendum on capital punishment would also include references to what offences would be classed as 'capital offences' – so, for instance, categories for this could include 'gang-rape' (which is currently on the increase), 'serious sex offences against children', 'organising/involvement in terrorist activities'.

Democracy must also have a place in law and order. People continuously suffer the consequences of politically correct judges and Police chiefs. In a new, radical England it will be the people that decide democratically who their judges, magistrates and Chief Constables should be.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

We only have to look at local election results and the lack of interest in local politics to realise something is drastically wrong with local government in England. People feel completely isolated from real decision making in a political system that is greatly centralised from Westminster and run by career politicians that are completely out of touch with the ordinary people

In a new, radical England the emphasis would be on decentralising power, placing it in the hands of local people so they can have a real say in how things are run in their area. We would devolve decision making power to a local level that people are comfortable with. The electorate would decide whether tax raising powers should be devolved to their city, county or their wider traditional region of England such as Wessex or East Anglia. With this proposed system the people would have control of their neighbourhoods, because if they want better social housing, public transport, refuse services, or more police on the beat, the power is in their hands. This would bring to an end to local authorities thinking the people are there to provide funding for the latest politically correct minority celebrations and schemes. The beauty is though, that whatever decision is made locally cannot be overturned by some pen-pusher in Whitehall.

## **PROPOSALS**

- 1) Disband the Inland Revenue and decentralise its role.
- 2) Strip central government of all but the authority to sign foreign treaties, raise and deploy the armed forces, and pass or amend national laws (i.e. laws that affect England as a whole).
- 3) Reverse the emphasis from central government power to local government, to the counties, cities and traditional regions of England, the latter of which would have a form of regional government.
- 4) Hold County Referendums to decide whether the cities and counties wish to have complete autonomy and manage their own affairs, or align themselves with neighbouring counties in their traditional region of England and establish a form of regional government.

Once the referendum has decided which direction local people wish to take, the counties and cities would provide a range of services as decided by the electorate. So if they want to run their buses, local post offices, subsidise businesses etc, it's up to them and they shall fund it with their money. The council is elected on a spending manifesto and the electorate pay the tax to cover the expenditure. The powers of the localities at parish/borough level can be negotiated within each area concerned and a referendum held as necessary to make or confirm decisions. Each county or city council, in negotiation with borough, district and parish councils, would have planning authority. This would eliminate the Office of the Deputy PM overriding local wishes in favour of unpopular development schemes.

From this the county or city council will have a cost of what funding it requires in running its services. Depending on the results of the County Referendum, the county or city shall then manage its own affairs or submit the sum for funding to the treasury of the regional government. In the case of the latter a figure for the whole region shall be calculated. Following this the people then pay a premium in the form of an income tax or local levy (to be decided by the people of the county or region) and the city, county council or regional government then pays a premium to the central government for the running of Parliament, the Armed Forces, NHS and the Foreign Service etc. So the centre has to bargain for what it needs.

In the case of the Regional Government's of England, we believe the choice would be best served based on England's traditional historic regions such as Mercia, Wessex and East Anglia. This would tie in with aims to promote our heritage and culture and give people a sense of regional as well as English identity.

Certain counties may wish to explore their own unique heritage. Providing they receive the support of the electorate of that county to pursue this, they would be able to do so. There would be no objection to counties naming their county council in reference to something of local historical significance. All would add to England's history and heritage.

Cornwall is a classic case where people are quite rightly proud of their Celtic roots. Many people in Cornwall have called for their own assembly or regional government. Considering how through the Barnett Formula the Cornish have lost out to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in terms of funding and support we can sympathise with these calls. Yet our proposals for local government would give greater autonomy to all the counties of England and in effect allow Cornwall to run its own affairs.

Through this policy democracy would be returned to the people and a fair system of collecting revenue implemented. We would need less MP's as more power would be devolved to the cities, counties and traditional English regions. There would be greater co-operation involving things such as transport between cities, counties and regions with transport hubs being created. Rather than weaken an independent England, such a proposal would actually strengthen it and bring a greater sense of nationhood and democracy to our country. In a new, radical England power shall be devolved to a level the people actually want.

## **M.P's PAY & EXPENSES**

The subject of the amount of money our Members of Parliament receive is a very serious one. It is obvious from the fraudulent claims many M.P's have submitted that they thought they could get away with absolutely anything and that the main priority on being elected was to live the high life at the expense of the ordinary people of England. Just compare what these hired servants of the people have got away compared to the likes of the ordinary citizen. Compare them to some pensioners who have faced imprisonment for missing payments on their council tax. Compare them to someone supplementing their social security payment by just a few pounds doing the occasional odd job. Compare their income and allowances to hard pressed workers on the minimum wage desperately trying to make ends meet. These comparisons show the extent of justice in England today. It also clearly demonstrates those that make the laws are protected whilst the ordinary citizens pay the full price!

The English Radical Alliance believes that MP's that make false claims should immediately be removed from office and prosecuted for fraud and deception. Why should they be treated differently to the rest of the population? After all they are in a position of trust!

What certain M.P's have claimed and the money they have received in relation to the work they do is scandalous. The English Radical Alliance believes that M.P's as servants of the people should receive payment only for the amount of time they spend working for their constituency or in a particular government office, and all these times submitted must be accounted for. This would help prevent M.P's jetting off to places such as Bermuda at the expense of the taxpayer instead of working for their constituents and attending Parliament. Through ERA's policy on decentralising power to a more local level, there would be a huge reduction in the number of M.P's anyway and subsequently a substantial saving on the public purse.

Some M.P's have made excessive and luxurious travel arrangements at the expense of the people. Ideally we would like to relocate Parliament to a more central location in England, thus reducing the

amount of travelling our M.P's have to do. This is something we would actually investigate. In the meantime the English Radical Alliance would impose a condition that if an M.P's constituency is further than 2 hours travelling time from Parliament, an allowance should be made for basic 2<sup>nd</sup> class travel arrangements only. If they wish to fly, take 1<sup>st</sup> Class train travel or arrive by chauffeur driven limousine they should pay for this out of their salaries.

We have seen M.P's hiring members of their family or old school friends for various 'assisting' roles and even going as far as inventing roles in order to hire such people. The English Radical Alliance believes only basic staffing requirements should be paid for by the state. Vacancies must be offered to any of the M.P's constituents, no matter their political beliefs and advertised in the local job centre. The MP would supply the Job Centre details of the vacancy, who would then come up with a list of people who match the right criteria for the position. The MP then selects a person(s) all open and above board. This would prevent friends and family walking into jobs and positions being invented in order to employ such people.

There have been some extravagant accommodation demands made on the taxpayer's purse by M.P's. The English Radical Alliance would favour one purpose built block of basic, furnished accommodation units provided for M.P's. If M.P's wished to furnish these units to a higher standard they would have to fund this from their own pockets and not those of the taxpayer. If Parliament was relocated to a more central location in the country, the building of such units would be included in this development. Prior to such a block being built the English Radical Alliance believes only a basic accommodation allowance should be provided for M.P's who have to reside in London due to excessive travelling times. A furnishing allowance would only be provided if the property is unfurnished, and this would only be sufficient to finance basic and not luxurious items.

Legislation would be introduced to ensure the MP's main residence will always be in their constituency and nowhere else. They will register that property, and only one property, which they will be the only registered owners with Parliament. The property must have had a full survey by an independent surveyor so there will be no sudden surprise repairs for dry rot or roof repairs no MP will or should buy a house in poor repair, any such repairs that are necessary the MP will be given an interest free loan by the government which will be repaid in full even if the MP is deselected.

Through these measures M.P's would once again realise they are the servants of the people and not the other way round. It would ensure M.P's are only paid for the work they do and not the position they hold. It would reward those M.P's that work the hardest for their constituents - something none of the other political parties seem interested in providing.

## **MULTICULTURALISM & RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM**

We are supposed to live in a free land and part of that freedom is the right to worship. However whilst greater freedom is given to certain faiths that are not native to our country, the Christian faith has had to curtail to political correctness. Crucifixes have been banned from crematoriums and as items of

jewellery, schools have been banned from holding assemblies, saying prayers and singing hymns and even Christmas has been replaced by celebrations such as Wintertide. The traditional Christian faith of England has been victimised so not upset certain foreign faiths. As we can see in England today the right to worship favours foreign religions over Christianity.

It is a fact that certain religions have amongst their ranks fundamentalists who will go to any measure to impose their beliefs upon others. This can involve intimidation and terrorism. Another serious threat comes from religious sects who prey upon the weak and vulnerable in society. These sects very often sap their victims of any wealth, free will and in some cases force a wedge between them and their family. In the most extreme cases there have even been suicides on orders from the sects' hierarchy. As we can see religious practice, far from being a spiritual experience can in the wrong hands also be very dangerous.

In a new, radical England, we would deliver the right to worship and deliver this from an angle that is acceptable to traditional English culture. Crucifixes would be permitted in crematoriums, and as items of jewellery. There would be no bans on schools singing hymns, holding prayers or assemblies. There would be no ban on Christmas or any other Christian festival. As a traditional Christian country the right to celebrate and show ones Christian faith would be included in a Bill of Rights.

However there are elements of religion that are clearly not acceptable in England, these being all forms of religious slaughter and sacrifice. All these would be outlawed in a new, radical England as would to incite hatred, intimidation and encouraging terrorism. All those found guilty of such offences could face imprisonment or deportation. Likewise there would be no place for extreme religious sects in a new, radical England. Religion should be an open spiritual experience with people free to have contact with their families and the right to participate or not to participate at their own free will. Allowing extreme religious sects to establish themselves and practice in England could deny them that freedom.

To create a fair and level playing field for religious practice in a new, radical England there will be a need to licence all places of worship, in a similar way to licensed premises such as clubs and pubs. Those operating without a licence or flouting regulations would be closed down with their leaders facing the consequences. This law would not affect those of true faith that seek to practice their religion, gain spiritual fulfilment and help their local communities. It would only affect those that seek to exploit the vulnerable or spread religious hatred, something that will not be accepted in a new, radical England.

## **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

The NHS presently employs 1.3 million people, making it the third largest employer in the world, after the Chinese army and the Indian railways, both countries with much larger populations than ours. This has come about because New Labour and the EU between them have increased bureaucracy, which in turn requires high levels of admin staff, in comparison to businesses in the private sector. We therefore propose the following measures:

The English Radical Alliance would bring to an end Private Finance Initiatives, and any sort of privatisation. The NHS, for all its faults, belongs to the people, so all services and infrastructure should be controlled “in house”, not farmed out to private companies trying to profiteer from public funds.

A freeze on recruitment of all admin staff, a reduction in senior managerial staff levels, a reduction in bureaucracy, and a restructuring of admin to reflect more closely staffing levels in private companies, until the present levels are reduced, via natural wastage, by a significant percentage. Any savings made this way to be spent on training more English student doctors, nurses and dentists, instead of having to recruit from abroad.

The people managing hospitals should be the people running them, the doctors and senior nurses, not expensive Health Trust CEO’s earning Prime Ministerial salaries. If a private company wants to waste money and pay big boss wages to an irrelevant figurehead, that’s their business, but a publicly owned concern should have a much flatter management structure. The taxpayer has a right to expect value for money from publicly funded bodies, which it is not getting at present.

Health Authorities would be devolved to a level that is economically viable. Every English county or traditional region would have its own, independent, Health Authority. Each independent Health Authority would be responsible for its own budget, funded eventually by the individual counties or counties within the traditional region. Certain smaller counties may struggle to provide adequate health care, unless part of a larger regional unit based on England’s traditional regions such as Wessex, Mercia etc.

**All** future National Lottery profits to be channelled towards funding the various Health Authorities: this will help to finance the smaller/poorer counties, instead of asking the bigger/wealthier ones to subsidise them.

Abandon the expensive NHS IT project, and allow the new Regional Health Authorities to choose their own, off the shelf, operating system and software, the only proviso being it should be interoperable with all the other county or regional systems.

Impose the same rules that govern donations to political parties, on patient’s pressure groups - many of which are heavily funded by pharmaceutical companies, who have an interest in selling their new and expensive products to the NHS, and encourage these groups to push for them.

Free cosmetic surgery, except in cases of extreme disfigurement, to be suspended until such times as all waiting lists for critical illnesses are effectively zero. We would apply the same policy to gender reassignment, or whatever they call it this week. The NHS was set up originally to look after the sick, not for breast reduction or sex change ops!

Health tourism would be stopped, emergency treatment **only** allowed to anyone from outside England. In the case of economic migrants, these would receive no health care beyond A&E till they have paid into the system for 5 years (this will also include any benefits).

We must ensure strict cleanliness and hygiene in all our hospitals. All medical staff must carry out a change of clothing in the hospital and not leave wearing their ward/theatre clothes/footwear.

## **NATIONALISATION**

One of the largest cons of the 20th century was the selling off of our public utilities. These were the nations 'family silver', yet on a promise that we could become a nation of shareholders and make vast profits, one by one these utilities were sold off. Far from becoming a nation of shareholders we are now a nation at the mercy of foreign investors who have bought into our utility companies and whose sole aim is to make a profit at the expense of the ordinary person.

The railways quickly followed the utility companies on the privatization route, with the Post Office / Royal Mail being dissected and facing unfair competition from foreign companies. None of this has been beneficial to our country, with jobs threatened and contracts lost, and it is yet another example of the inhuman face of capitalism.

In a new, radical England our family silver would be reclaimed by the nation and used for the nation and not shareholders, foreign investors and the fat cat salaries of company directors. However unlike previous nationalised companies where governments made appointments (very often through the 'old school tie' or university connections) in a new, radical England control of these companies would be decided democratically by the workforce and the people. This would help ensure efficiency and prevent failures as people would have a direct say in how 'their nations' companies are managed. There must also be rewards for initiative within the workplace of newly nationalised companies. Very often it is the people on the 'shop floor' that can identify problems and necessary improvements far better than those in the office or expensively hired consultants.

Another industry which we must look at nationalising is pharmaceutical industry. We would look into nationalising sections of the pharmaceutical industry to prevent it from pulling the strings of the medical profession and enabling profits to be re-invested into health care and the NHS.

We can recognise that the previous nationalised industries were perhaps too large, and that regionalising some of these is a good idea. This nationalisation on a regional scale would also assist in the democratic process. However there has to be co-operation between each region and a fair pricing system, unlike the present system operated by the water authorities.

Some may argue that the cost of taking back into public ownership those businesses that have been privatised would be too costly and that compensation to shareholders would consume the majority of any budget. However in the past nationalisation of companies was paid for by the issuing of bonds to former shareholders. Interest on these bonds was paid from a proportion of the profits from the nationalised industry. Such a method could work again and return the 'family silver' into public ownership once more.

The present capitalist privatisation system is not working and offers no benefit to the country or the ordinary people of the country. The old style socialist nationalisation system was a huge juggernaut tied to centralised dictatorial management. The English Radical Alliance offers an alternative that would bring nationalisation to a much more manageable regional scale. It would offer democracy to the people that matter most, i.e consumers and the workforce and last but not least it would benefit the country and the people.

## **PENSIONS AND THE ELDERLY**

You do not have to be a genius to realise many pensioners face increasingly difficult lives. They suffer financial hardship, they are the most likely to endure any inadequacies in the health service and they are definitely the most likely victims of crime. The Tories, despite their protestations and ability to grab the majority share of the so called 'grey vote' have always failed to deliver their promises and a better life for England's elderly.

As a nation England must learn to value our elderly, treat them with the respect they deserve and provide them with a suitable income to live on. The English Radical Alliance aims to significantly improve the lives of our elderly by delivering a sense of value, respect and decent income in which to live on.

In a new, radical England after retiring, pensioners would be able to register their services to a 'skills bank'. This would be a pool of skills and experience which employers, small businesses and the education authorities could tap into, thus taking advantage of the decades of knowledge our pensioners obviously possess. This could be a reciprocal arrangement whereby the elderly could learn additional skills themselves possibly in the IT field and definitely in the community. Such a system would show how our elderly can be valued members of society and actually still contribute to it.

Housing is another issue where our pensioners have had a raw deal. Sheltered housing schemes have lost resident wardens and politically correct attempts to place pensioners in communities away from their friends and with young and often unruly families has failed and brought misery to many.

The English Radical Alliance would reverse the trend in scrapping resident wardens and introduce policies and legislation to reintroduce them. Current half empty tower blocks and flats would be converted into sheltered housing for pensioners, with gated security. One floor could be converted to a recreation area, with both medical and shopping facilities available. Additional facilities could be made available within the secure grounds of each complex by introducing allotment or community gardens and workshops. Finally each scheme would be democratically managed, with residents having a real say the running of the complex. This would allow our elderly to live in the safety of their own home and allow a return of community spirit within the properties.

The English Radical Alliance would tackle the current inadequate pensions our elderly receive. The actual pension as we know it today would be abolished and replaced with a non means tested and inflation linked Pensioners Income Scheme, based on the individual's previous salary prior to retirement. Widows would receive half their spouses or partners income on top of their own whilst remaining single or not co-habiting. In addition to the Pensioners Income Scheme, the elderly would receive free heating, television licences, road tax and fares on all forms of public transport.

## **POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION**

Positive discrimination is where policies and practices favour certain sections of the community, for example ethnic groups and women. In practice this has meant a quota system in employment and even allocation of housing and other opportunities. In reality this has meant ordinary law abiding citizens missing out on opportunities and very often the best person for the job not being offered it as he or she does not fill the right criteria. Positive discrimination has meant many English people, both men and women, being treated as second class citizens.

The English Radical Alliance believes in fairness and equality for all. We do not believe in implementing schemes to ensure quotas of from all sections of the community are reflected in employment, and feel common sense should prevail and positions should be offered to the best person for the job. Likewise in other rules and regulations which through positive discrimination seek to appease ethnic groups at the expense of the English, we believe in a level playing field and one rule for all. Therefore in order to deliver common sense and real equality the English Radical Alliance will abolish all positive discrimination schemes and legislation.

## **PRISONS**

The English Radical Alliance believes prison should be a punishment. At present many prisoners are finding 'life inside' easy. This and the widespread use of drugs in prisons has to be stamped out. In addition to this we have to look at the type of offenders in prison and debate whether harder forms of community based punishment and curfews would be a more suitable punishment for some less violent offenders. All drug addicts would be sent to specialist units to undergo treatment to eradicate their dependency as part of their sentence. More prisons would be built if necessary or prison ships introduced. Any new prison ships would be built in England.

## **POLITICAL CORRECTNESS & HEALTH & SAFETY EXTREMISM**

Political correctness and insane health and safety laws interfere with almost every aspect of our lives. It seems common sense and equality really is ignored as more and more absurd legislation is imposed upon us. We have seen political correctness damaging traditional English customs and insane health and safety laws banning games such as conkers and skipping, and making insurance for some traditional English fetes and festivities completely out of reach.

The English Radical Alliance advocates a return to common sense and would immediately replace political correctness and insane health and safety laws with common sense. The ordinary law abiding person knows right from wrong and the degree of risk involved in staging a village fete or a local balloon festival. The English Radical Alliance would transfer the decision making process away from politically correct lawyers and to the authorities and people of England.

## **PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION & VOTING**

Our present 'first past the post' electoral system is realistically undemocratic and has resulted in the rotating Conservative – Labour dictatorship. The English Radical Alliance wishes to introduce a system that is fair and reflects the way the electorate actually vote. We regard proportional representation, and the method of Cumulative Voting, using an equal and even ballot as our preferred choice. On ballot papers listing five or more candidates, voters would be able to vote for up to three candidates. The vote is then divided fractionally during the count.

In addition to this we favour a listing of 'None of the Above' on all ballot papers. This would reduce the number of spoilt papers and allow the electorate to register a protest vote if they are not satisfied with their choice of candidates and political parties.

## **QUANGOS**

Each year the government wastes billions of pounds on unelected quangos. In many instances these organisations simply duplicate the work other bodies are already carrying out and in numerous other cases the work of the quangos is completely unnecessary. In a new, radical England all 1100+ quangos would be dismantled, and where absolutely necessary replaced with properly elected bodies.

## **REGIONALISATION**

The English Radical Alliance opposes the nu-Labour and EU instigated idea of geographical English regions and favours greater autonomy for the historic and traditional cities, counties and regions of England. For more details see our ENGLISH REGIONS policy.

## **RETIREMENT AGE**

At some stage it is likely a compulsory age of retirement will be introduced either by the government or as a result of some EU directive. The English Radicals believe all sections of the community need to be valued and introducing a compulsory retirement age would devalue our elderly. We strongly believe England could benefit from far greater input from our elderly population, enhancing their years of knowledge and experience. Our policies on pensions and the elderly, plus our opposition to a compulsory retirement age, shall make it possible for those of advancing years to continue to offer

valued service to their community, their employers and the country, either in a voluntary, part time or full time capacity.

## **SOVEREIGNTY**

Under the anti-English rotating dictatorship of Labour and Conservatives, England has surrendered much of its sovereignty. The EU now makes many of the laws we have to abide by. Politically correct lawyers introduce measures beyond the acceptability of common sense. Unelected quangos make decisions without consulting the people. Large global institutions have detrimental effects on our economy and can insist upon English troops taking part in foreign campaigns.

Some political parties simply claim sovereignty is about the EU. The English Radical Alliance believes it is about the people deciding upon the direction of each institution which governs our lives. We would deliver real sovereignty and real democracy.

## **SPORT**

The English Radical Alliance believes in fairer distribution of funding in sport. Major sponsorship deals and the selling of television rights has only benefitted the largest of teams and most popular sports, with little if nothing reaching the lower echelons of the sporting ladder and grass roots development. We favour greater distribution of wealth in sport allowing smaller teams, less popular sports and better development at grass roots level.

The English Radical Alliance believes England fans should not have to pay subscriptions to television companies in order to watch our football, rugby and cricket teams on the TV. Live coverage of international matches in these sports should be screened by either BBC or ITV, and not have to compete in an auction between companies which often results in fans having to pay.

We oppose the term 'British' being given to all English sportsmen, whilst those of the other nations within the present UK are referred to as Scottish, Welsh and Irish.

## **TAXATION**

The people of England are overtaxed with much of the money collected wasted on expensive quangos, officialdom, new logos, politically correct schemes and overseas expenditure. The European Union and the inequalities of the present United Kingdom contribute even further to the tax burden.

In recent decades we have witnessed the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. This is an unfair capitalist principle. Meanwhile those on low incomes that are thrifty are often penalised. We do not believe in taxing poorer people that are saving and making their money work for them, but we do favour progressive taxation where higher wage earners pay a larger proportion of their income in tax.

The English Radical Alliance believes taxation should only be used to raise capital for the running of the country and essential services. Too much has already been wasted financing the cleaning of moats for members of parliament and plush new furnishings in government offices. To help prevent this squandering of taxpayers money we believe the people should have a greater say in how their taxes are spent.

How taxes are raised is another matter that needs addressing. At present central government, through the Inland Revenue (another centralised expensive government body) can dictate to people what it requires. The English Radical Alliance would reverse this process, with national taxation solely to be used for items that affect the nation as a whole. The Inland Revenue as we know it would be disbanded and re-established on a purely local or regional basis. This would reduce bureaucracy and cut costs. With greater autonomy placed with local people, apart from taxation for national purposes, the people would have the power to decide what taxation should be raised for use in their city, county or region. The form of taxation for local services is something else that could be decided by the electorate, with a local income tax or sales levy being options.

The way National Insurance functions today is almost like a secondary income tax. Therefore there is no reason why it cannot be incorporated with income tax.

With inheritance tax, at the age of 25 all people would have the opportunity to pay an additional 1pence in the pound in income tax or opt for inheritance tax on everything above £750k

All goods manufactured in England would be exempt from VAT. Imported luxury items would face a higher rate of VAT.

## **TRANSPORT**

An integrated transport system is something that has often been talked about but never delivered. However the environmental considerations alone merit that it is essential to deliver such a system, incorporating road, rail, water and air. New rail and tram links need to be created and bus services able to reach rural communities.

The privatisation of the railways has been a complete disaster and another example of the Thatcherite dream gone wrong. Services have failed to improve significantly, and the only improvements have been in the bank balances of share holders and over paid executives. The English Radical Alliance would renationalise the railways, issuing bonds to present share holders as a form of compensation.

The English Radical Alliance would work with cycling organisations and invest in safe cycleways across the country, adjacent at regular points with local public transport stations. This would help reduce the reliance upon cars as a means of transport.

All foreign lorry drivers would have to take a short, simple, driving test before entering English roads. Any drivers failing said test would be barred from leaving the port, and the load collected by English or British trained drivers using right hand drive tractor units. If foreign hauliers were to know of this ruling and prefer an English lorry to transport the goods to the final destination in order to save time, this could be pre-arranged. All foreign lorries on entering England's roads would also have to pay for and display a special tax disc.

## **TRADE UNIONS & WORKERS RIGHTS**

Trade Unions have an important role to play in helping to create a new, radical England. In the past some unions have had bad publicity, being led by leaders who care more for their own ego than their members. In doing this some Trade Union leaders and representatives have abused their position, leading their members into greater hardship and forgetting the founding principles of the union movement. Because of the egotistic element, unfortunately many unions are still tied to the practices of generations ago which can have a detrimental effect on their members. 'One man –one job' has very little bearing in the flexible, technological age we live in today.

Yet despite the shortcomings of some of the hierarchy and representatives, Trade Unions still play a vital role in the workplace, campaigning for fair pay, equality and better conditions for the workforce. In a new, radical England there will still be a role for unions to play and for them to continue their campaigning work. Trade Unions must always be there to protect the working men and women from exploitation, to protect pensions and to campaign for necessary improvements to pay and conditions. The right to strike should also not be removed but be there as a final option. But at the same time unions must play a partnering role with business and government. Through distributism new businesses and co-operatives shall be created, and a modern Trade Union movement should have as much involvement in assisting these new set ups and creating the right employment and workplace conditions as defending the rights of workers within them.

The English Radical Alliance believes in a social contract, whereby people at the poorer end of society work for their wages in the knowledge that they will be provided with low-rent housing, decent health services, and the provision of benefits and pensions when required. This social contract used to be a given right, quietly acknowledged even by the Tories, but was broken after Thatcher. In a new, radical England every person would be valued and rewarded. We recognise that without people willing to work in the less-well paid jobs, the whole country would come to a halt. The English Radical Alliance would work with the Trade Union movement to deliver this new social contract. This will be a new partnership between the Trade Unions, its members and an English Radical government.

## **TRAVELLERS**

Once upon a time there were gypsies, who would travel the countryside or from farm to farm carrying out seasonal work or odd jobs. There are still a few of these traditional gypsies left, who by and large are honest and live by a set of standards. However what has joined the gypsies is a new breed of travelling community, simply known as travellers. Some of these may be genuine, honest people, but unfortunately there are amongst them those that are not and therefore legislation needs introducing to deal with the issue.

There are so called 'human rights' issues involving travellers. However what is forgotten is the fact that the lives and human rights of ordinary people that are effected by illegal traveller sites setting up in their locality and the local taxpayer who is forced to pay for the clean up after travellers have departed.

For anyone wishing to travel the country using a caravan, there are touring sites all around the country. No ordinary person would be allowed to set up camp on a playing field or in a lay-by and in a new, radical England we feel the same rule should apply to travellers.

If a traveller was moved on by the touring park owner, and could not find another park then because of the nature of their community it is likely they would move to a place such as a lay-by or sports field. This being the case, in a new, radical England certain regulations would be introduced.

- 1) That travellers are only given a limited period of 10 days at an unofficial site.
- 2 That when they set up camp, those of employable age are engaged in work under the National Labour Scheme within the borough or parish such as litter picking, painting or clearing graffiti.
- 3) That as soon as travellers arrive in an area their most expensive vehicles would be impounded. These are only returned on the date the travellers are due to leave, and only if there are no proven incidents effecting local residents and the site is deemed clean and tidy. If this is not the case then the vehicles are sold to compensate local residents or pay for a clean up operation.

## **WRITTEN CONSTITUTION**

The English Radical Alliance would introduce a written constitution for England. For more details see our CONSTITUTION FOR ENGLAND policy.

## **YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

England's traditional youth organisations such as the Scouts and the Guides have provided enjoyment for millions over the years. They have been joined in more recent times by groups such as the ATC and thousands of sports clubs. Yet funding and support for youth organisations has been very poor and in some cases has discriminated against more traditional organisations such as the Scouts. Whilst certain ethnic groups have received funding for youth cultural centres, groups such as the Scouts and Guides have had to raise money themselves through fundraising activities.

In a new, radical England, we see the future of traditional youth organisations as very important. Each one provides activity, develops teamwork and discipline and in many cases contribute towards local communities. In a new, radical England such organisations would be provided with additional funding to promote and fund their activities.

## **ZOOS & WILDLIFE COLLECTIONS**

The English Radical Alliance believes the priority for zoos and wildlife collections should be for animal conservation and not for profit of the individual or shareholders. The highest standards are animal welfare must be adhered to with no animals supplied for vivisection or slaughtered simply because they are not a popular attraction.