

# The Nuffield Foundation Newsletter

Summer 2008

Issue

9

## Britain and Europe – where now?

**Few issues generate more heated debate in Britain than the country's relationship with the European Union. Recognizing the deep structural changes that have taken place since the signing of the Treaty of Rome 50 years ago, Chatham House has convened a commission of experts to examine how or to what extent Britain can work through its membership of the European Union to confront some of the main challenges to its future security and prosperity.**

With the support of a grant from Nuffield, Chatham House will release a Commission report in July that looks at five principal issues: Britain's place in the world; the value of further EU enlargement; enhancing British domestic security; new areas of European economic integration; and developing a new European agenda for energy security. The Commission is led by Sir Stephen Wall, former UK Permanent Representative to the EU and



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Prime Minister Tony Blair's Europe advisor. The report does not focus on the current details of Europe's institutional debate. Rather, it addresses Britain's interests in the context of expected developments in the global political and economic system over the next decade or so and shows where

our interests will most clearly coincide with the interests of our European partners. While the EU is of course a political project with implications for national sovereignty, the report stresses pragmatism over idealism and is aimed at a broad spectrum of British political thinking. [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

**Welcome to the Nuffield Foundation Newsletter** which highlights our current areas of grant making and focuses on the outcomes of the projects we fund.

Further details on all the stories marked with this icon [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org) can be found on our website.

The Newsletter is published three times a year and you can obtain further copies or ask to be put on the mailing list by contacting the Foundation. If you have any comments on the Newsletter we would be delighted to hear from you.

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[www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

# Government, Law Making and the Constitution

Supporting objective and impartial analyses of the actions of government is an important cross cutting theme for the Foundation, not least because it is an area where independent funding has a particular role to play. Three projects that are reported on in this issue of our Newsletter exemplify this idea: a study of the progress that has been made in constitutional reform (this page); a study of the process by

which new laws are made (this page); and a Commission on the UK's relationship with the European Union (front page).

We plan to increase our support for projects like these over the next few years. Themes of interest are likely to include the constitution and constitutional reform, and the relationship between law making, regulation and public policy. We expect to announce details by the end of the year. [www](#)



## How laws are made

Although there is much political, media and public attention on the operation and effect of certain individual laws, comparatively little concentration is placed on the process involved in creating them. A new study by the Hansard Society has analysed the processes by which laws are made and the influences that affect legislative proposals and their passage into law.

The study assesses how a particular law came to take the form that it did and who or what influenced its final outcome. It examines the way that the various participants interact with each other, and how proposals change as they journey from policy proposal through the parliamentary process into law. The findings are published in *Law in the Making: Influence and Change in the Legislative Process*. [www](#)

# The future of Britain's constitution

**The UK is going through a period of unprecedented constitutional change. Where are these changes taking us?**

Will devolution lead to Scottish independence and the break up of the UK? Will a British bill of rights lead to yet more power for the judges? Will there be electoral reform at Westminster? And will

this mean more power for Parliament, or less?

With a grant from the Nuffield Foundation, over the last year the Constitution Unit has been exploring the answers to these questions. The resulting book, *Constitutional Futures Revisited: Britain's Constitution to 2020*, brings together leading political scientists and lawyers to forecast the impact

of these changes on the UK's key institutions and the constitution as a whole. The book, an indispensable guide for policy makers, lawyers and judges, the media, academics, students, and anyone interested in the future of the UK's political landscape, is due to be published at the end of the year. [www](#)

# Breaktime revisited

**In 1995, Nuffield funded a team led by Professor Peter Blatchford to carry out a national survey on the position and length of breaktimes in the school day. That survey revealed that while most schools had various kinds of breaks, the trend was for these being reduced both in frequency and in length.**

Recently the Foundation funded a second survey, in the context of a proliferation of curriculum reforms, and an increasing emphasis on testing and league tables. The survey found pupils greatly valuing breaktimes - feeling they did not get enough time to play, exercise and socialise – yet there have been continued reductions in these periods, particularly at lunchtime. [www](#)



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## Mental health in Africa



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**Mental, neurological and behavioural disorders are common to all countries and cause immense suffering. They are the cause of immense economic and social costs; people with these disorders are often subjected to social isolation, poor quality of life and increased mortality.**

In low income countries the situation is exacerbated by lack of economic and human resources; consequently mental health policies, legislation, care facilities and treatments for people with mental illness receive little support. Innovative approaches are needed to use available resources to ensure that basic mental health care reaches all individuals and that there is a legal framework that adequately protects the rights of people with mental disorders.

Nuffield is supporting work in Kenya to integrate the care of mental health disorders into primary health care in line with the country's policy. The Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London is working with the Kenyan Ministry of Health and Kenyan professional bodies to deliver training to primary health care personnel. And a recent grant to the School of Law, University of Nottingham, addresses the design of mental health legislation in the context of minimal resources and how best to ensure that such legislation meets international human rights standards. The initiative focuses on Lesotho, working with the government, but, like the health delivery project in Kenya, will have relevance for other countries with similar characteristics. [www](#)

## STEM performs for the Olympics

**During May, a group of teachers, curriculum developers, and performing artists spent a week together thinking creatively about how the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) curricula can be taught in a more effective and motivating way in lower secondary schools, and how these curriculum areas can be linked in cross-curricular projects.**

This performing arts laboratory (PAL) encouraged unfamiliar approaches to thinking about and expressing scientific and technological ideas. The Nuffield STEM project is starting to work on projects for year 7 pupils in the context of the Olympics. The photo shows an Olympic themed example for 'Designing and making a kinetic sculpture' conceived during the PAL. [www](#)





## Teachers should create National Curriculum

Teachers need a bigger role in how the National Curriculum develops, according to a recent paper from the Nuffield Review of 14-19 Education and Training.

The author of the paper, Professor Richard Pring, warns that the National Curriculum is currently too centrally prescriptive, and that it will only develop successfully if teachers, not government or its agencies, become key players. The Nuffield Review will continue to publish Issues Papers through the summer. The final report will be coming out in the middle of 2009. [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)



## Tackling rheumatic disease

Over 8 million people in the UK are affected by rheumatic disease leading to significant physical disability, discomfort and economic loss. Further scientific research is needed, set within a clinical context.

Nuffield's Oliver Bird Programme aims to address this need by developing a cohort of outstanding young research scientists, trained in the relevant leading edge biosciences within multidisciplinary research teams. 28 PhD students are already on board; the Trustees have agreed funding for a further 25. Nuffield looks forward to seeing the longer term benefits of their research, and to following their careers. [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

## Consultation on ethics and dementia

How can carers, families and doctors weigh up what treatment and care a person would have wanted before they developed dementia, and what they appear to want now?

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics has launched a public consultation to find out people's views on this and the many other ethical dilemmas regularly faced by people with dementia and those who care for them. [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)



## New Trustee



Nuffield is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor David Rhind as Trustee to the Foundation. Recently retired as Vice Chancellor of City University. David Rhind now serves as a member of the Court of the Bank of England, and has just been named a member of the newly-named Statistics Board. [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

## MBE for Deputy Director



Nuffield congratulates Sharon Witherspoon for being awarded this honour in recognition of her services to social science. [www](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)



William Morris, Lord Nuffield  
1877-1963

The Nuffield Foundation is an endowed charitable trust established in 1943 by William Morris (Lord Nuffield) the founder of Morris Motors with the aim of advancing social well being. We fund research and practical experiment and the development of capacity to undertake them, working across education, science, social science and social policy. While most of the Foundation's expenditure is on responsive grant programmes we also undertake our own initiatives.

Full information on all our current activities and on how to apply for grants can be found at [www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

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